India-Pakistan crisis triggers Pinoys' repatriation

STORY ON PAGE A2

e-mail: feedback@inquirer.com.ph

website: www.inq7.net

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Tuesday, June 4, 2002 ★★ 44 pages / 3 sections / vol.17 / no. 176 P15

Bobi's quantum leap

THIS IS NEW POLITICS!

By Carlito Pablo

TAKE it as a quantum leap for Rigoberto "Bobi" Tiglao.

The spokesperson of President Macapagal-Arroyo, once upon a time an anti-imperialist activist, is devoting his six-month fellowship in

BOBI'S/A7

WHAT'S INSIDE

- **Lakers versus Nets for NBA championship** SPORTS/ A20
- **400 Palestinians held** WORLD/ A14
- **El Niño budget short by P400M** NEWS/ A5

Alvarez bypassed; new Piatco deal seen

ALVAREZ: GMA still supports him, according to the press secretary.

By Cynthia D. Balana and Carlito Pablo

TRANSPORTATION Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez was effectively bypassed by the bicameral Commission on Appointments yesterday, after its members agreed to wait one more week to hear the testimony of presidential adviser Gloria Tan Climaco.

Ordered arrested last week for failing to heed the CA summons, Climaco has pledged in a letter that she will appear on June 10. The CA will hold its last hearing tomorrow before Congress adjourns on June 6.

The 12th Congress begins its second session on July 22.

In an executive session, the CA members agreed to wait for the testimony of Climaco, currently in the United States attending to a sick relative, and controversial Piatco consultant Alfonso Liongson, who is reportedly undergoing medical treatment, also in the United States.

Climaco chaired the presidential committee that reviewed the contract of Philippine International Air Terminals Co. (Piatco). In a March 13, 2002 letter to Piatco, she suggested a total of 28 "proposed changes" in the concession agreement.

In Malacañang, acting Press Secretary Silvestre Afable said Alvarez would be reappointed.

"The President is not changing her position. She is supporting Secretary Alvarez. Up to this point in time and as far as I know, the President is supporting him," Afable said.

But he said the Palace wanted the controversial Naia Terminal 3 contract won by Piatco renegotiated.

In yesterday's hearing, Norbert Loesch, a German national and former Piatco consultant, claimed that Alvarez might have been guilty of corrupt practices.

In a statement, Alvarez questioned Loesch's credibility, not-

ALVAREZ/A19

LOESCH: Climaco spoke of payoffs

Opposition takes Senate

Constitutional crisis looms as Sonny joins 'new majority'

By Rocky Nazareno

SEN. John Osmeña defected to the opposition yesterday, triggering a revamp of the upper chamber that may lead to his assumption as Senate President.

But administration senators said the reorganization was "incomplete and illegal," and Senate President Franklin Drilon moved to adjourn the Senate "sine die," until the 12th Congress opens its second regular session on July 22.

Administration Sen. Joker Arroyo said the House of Representatives "will follow suit when they meet (today)."

With administration Sen. Ramon Revilla still in the United States recuperating from a spine operation, Osmeña's move tipped the balance of power in the Senate in favor of the opposition.

But the decision of the Drilon group to adjourn the first regular session a few days ahead of schedule may lead to a constitutional crisis.

At 5:28 p.m. yesterday, Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. called the 83rd session of the first regular session of the 12th Congress to order. Only the 12 members of the "new majority"—Osmeña included—attended because all 11 adminis-

OPPOSITION/A19

OSMEÑA: "With the President in a full-blown campaign effort, there is lack of leadership in government."

PHOTOS BY JESS YUSON

DRILON: Suddenly out of power, but administration senators are not giving up without a fight.

Charge Ping, Senate report recommends

By Rocky Nazareno

MINUTES before they were ousted yesterday, the chairs of three Senate committees released a joint report recommending the filing of kidnap-for-ransom and drug-trafficking charges against Sen. Panfilo Lacson.

The committees on public order and illegal drugs and on national defense and security, and the blue ribbon committee also recommended that criminal charges be filed against Lacson's men in the disbanded Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force (PAOCTF).

Committee Report No. 66 said the Department of Justice should pursue an investigation of Lacson's possible participation, together with Supt. Reynaldo Acop, Supt. John Campos and Supt. Francisco Villaroman, in the kidnapping of six Chinese nationals and in drug trafficking.

The kidnapping " . . . has been substantially established by prima facie

CHARGE/A13

PNP chief sacks entire Pasay force

By TJ Burgonio and Alcuin Papa

DIRECTOR General Leandro Mendoza, chief of the Philippine National Police, yesterday ordered the immediate replacement of Pasay City's 341-strong police force and its retraining in hostage crisis management.

Mendoza said it was unacceptable that Pasay policemen bungled the "very simple matter" of the Friday hostage drama that ended in the death of both 4-year-old Dexter Balala and the knife-wielding hostage taker, Diomedes Talvo.

"There were a lot of lapses," Mendoza said during a break in a command conference on the case in Camp Crame, which included a video presentation of the chronology of events and police actions during the harrowing incident at the Philtranco bus terminal. "We're trying to plug these lapses by revising some systems and replacing some personnel."

He cited the policemen's failure to control the crowd of kibitzers, as well as members of the media who, police officials said, got in the way and made it difficult for the designated shooter to disable Talvo.

The Pasay policemen will be replaced with those from the National Capital Region Police Office and will be made to undergo a 21-day refresher course on hostage crisis management.

Policemen at the scene shot and killed Talvo only after he had repeatedly plunged his knife into the back and sides of the child. Autopsy results showed that Balala suffered both stab and bullet wounds.

President Macapagal-Arroyo yester-

PNP/A19

DepEd officials excited over curriculum reform

By Donna S. Cueto

(Second of a series)

SPECIAL REPORT

A "GUNG-HO" Education Secretary Raul Roco is implementing this month the restructured Basic Education Curriculum (BEC), which he describes as the best thing to happen to students and teachers.

Roco is going two steps ahead of the plan of his predecessor, Andrew Gonzalez, to test the BEC first in selected schools. But Roco says there was no need to wait.

"The restructured curriculum will be implemented in all levels except Grade 6 and 4th Year. School year 2002-03 will be a pilot year for the restructured curriculum in all public schools. Private schools may opt to join, and best practices will be shared at the end of the pilot year," a Department of Education primer for the restructured curriculum said.

Roco says he is just continuing what his predecessors started.

Former Education Secretary Leonardo Quisumbing began the restructuring of the curriculum 17 years ago. But it was Gonzalez who came up with the idea of reducing the learning areas from eight to five, according to Roco.

"All these flow from 16 years' study and an intensive seven-year consultation with the whole organization, including all 16 regional directors, 145 superintendents and at least 20,000 principals," Roco said.

"I will implement it because we have a cluttered curriculum," he said in an interview. "We are even teaching traffic rules, we teach about drugs, population. Basic learning is reading, writing, arithmetic, and good values," he said.

In the original plan of Gonzalez, the first phase of the "curriculum reform project" was set for school year 2000-01. This entailed preparation of materials for elementary and high school levels, including the syllabus, its scope and sequence.

The second phase in schoolyear 2001-02 involved printing of "initial materials."

The first two phases were accomplished without a hitch.

School year 2002-03, the third phase, called for pilot testing in selected schools—one school per division or province. For school year 2003-04, the fourth phase, the materials would be revised based on the results of the implementation of the curriculum in selected schools.

It was only in the fifth and last phase that the restructured curriculum would be implemented nationwide. This was

DEPED/A13

US troops move into war zone

WOLFOWITZ: We're not sending US troops to do the job of the AFP.

AMERICAN soldiers may now see the whites of their enemies' eyes in Basilan, but they still can't open fire on them. No matter, the law of the jungle is waiting.

The Philippines and the United States yesterday agreed to deploy US Special Forces closer to combat areas where Abu Sayyaf bandits linked to Osama bin Laden are holding an American missionary couple and a Filipino nurse.

"There was consensus that training will be intensified and pushed forward to the company level," acting Press Secretary Silvestre Afable said after talks between President Macapagal-Arroyo and visiting US Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz in Malacañang last night.

"It implies that this is closer to the action," Afable told a press briefing.

If deployed at the company level, the US troops would be spread over a wider area of the jungle-clad island with a higher chance of contact with the bandits. The American soldiers are at present stationed at the headquarters of Philippine Army battalions.

Both sides said they were considering extending the Balikatan anti-terror training exercise that ends on June 30, but no decision had yet been taken.

At a separate news conference, Wolfowitz said that Washington was open to the idea.

"That's one of the questions I hope to be better informed about when I leave here. Those are decisions that have to be made by both our governments," he told reporters.

Wolfowitz said a decision on extending the operation beyond June would be up to US Defense Secretary

US/A19

DALIIII! BAKA ABUTAN NG GIYERA!!!

Pinoys told to leave India, Pakistan

GMA orders repatriation of non-essential embassy personnel

By Carlito Pablo and Norman Bordadora

ESCALATING border tensions between the two nuclear powers, India and Pakistan, have compelled President Macapagal-Arroyo to order the evacuation and repatriation of "non-essential" personnel in the Philippine embassies in these countries.

The President announced her decision yesterday in a radio interview broadcast nationwide. The order covered dependents of embassy officials, employees, and minor staff members.

Ms Macapagal said National Security Adviser Roilo Golez proposed the pullout following a similar move by the United Nations.

"The United Nations has ordered non-essential personnel and their families in Pakistan to go home," Ms Macapagal said on radio. The statement was reiterated in a subsequent Malacañang statement.

Family members of UN personnel began leaving India and Pakistan over the weekend after the world body ordered the evacuation as a precautionary measure against the outbreak of war.

Acting Press Secretary Silvestre Afable said the President's orders referred to both India and Pakistan. In his regular briefing, Afable said Ms Macapagal instructed the Department of Foreign Affairs "to effect the evacuation."

But orders pertaining to OFWs in the warring countries are not as urgent. The Department of Foreign Affairs said no mass pullout was immediately forthcoming for the Filipino workers, which it estimated at 250 in India, and more than 500 in Pakistan.

On the other hand, the President said she had asked Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas to coordinate with Filipinos working in the two countries for "possible evacuation."

Afable said the government did "not see the need for a contingency plan to move out the workers, unlike what happened in the Middle East (during the Gulf War in 1990)." He added, "We are confident that they can take care of themselves."

However, he did say the OFWs should closely coordinate with their embassies, in the event of full-scale fighting, or should they, themselves, decide to return home.

In Pakistan, Ambassador Jorge Arizabal said the Philippine Embassy has raised the danger alert to the third level, and advised Filipinos there to move to safe ground.

Foreign Undersecretary Merlin Magallona said that what the OFWs in both countries feared most was losing their jobs. Their contracts did not protect them against such emergency situations as the outbreak of war, she said.

In fact, Magallona said, only 70 to 80 contract workers in Karachi have expressed their intention to go home.

Although he also advised the workers in India and Pakistan to keep in close touch with the Philippine embassies, Magallona said, "The situation is relatively manageable and we expect that it would normalize soon."

He cited three things that could ease the tension. These are the forthcoming Kazahkstan summit between the two countries, the scheduled visit of US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and, ironically, the nuclear capability of the protagonists.

The summit, proposed earlier by Russian president Vladimir Putin, would be yet another attempt to settle the conflict peacefully, and Rumsfeld was expected to do the same, Magallona said.

But the third factor, he believed, was the biggest deterrent to all-out war. "The nuclear presence on both sides would make them think twice before launching any attack," he said.

Group files plunder complaint against Estrada 'errand girl'

By Michael Lim Ubac and Volt Contreras

ORTALIZA

A PRIVATE prosecutor in the trial of Joseph Estrada, along with five other persons, yesterday charged his confessed "errand girl" with plunder.

Private prosecutor Marie Francesca J. Yuviengco, Fr. Joe Dizon, Dr. Joseph Carabeo, Maan Hontiveros, Dr. Carolina Araullo and Romulo Abaya—all members of Plunder Watch-filed the complaint against Lucena "Baby" Ortaliza with the Office of the Ombudsman.

This is apparently to prevent the lawyers of the deposed President from using it as a reason to delay the ongoing proceedings with the Sandiganbayan.

State prosecutors, on the other hand, backtracked from their announced plan to indict Ortaliza.

Ombudsman Aniano Desierto said his office would first conduct a preliminary investigation to establish whether there was probable cause to do so.

Last Friday, Desierto called a press conference to announce that a motion would be filed with the anti-graft court this week seeking Ortaliza's inclusion as a "Jane Doe."

In an interview then with the INQUIRER, Assistant Ombudsman Dennis Villa-Ignacio said Ortaliza's admission to the media that she ran banking errands for Estrada and "Jose Velarde" gave the prosecution "no choice" but to charge her along with her former employer.

But yesterday, Desierto told reporters that they would give Ortaliza an opportunity to answer the charge during the preliminary investigation—a process that, he said, could take at least 60 days.

The initial plan to charge the 49-year-old bookkeeper will be dropped if "she is able to overcome evidence against her," he said.

Estrada's spokesperson Raymund Fortun said the prosecutors' sudden hesitation was "typical of their disarray and disorder" and "a sign of panic."

"Thank God they have realized that their Gestapo-like tactic has no place in a democratic society," said Fortun.

Desierto, however, said it was the filing of the formal charge against Ortaliza that prompted him to order a preliminary investigation.

"If we go directly to the court asking for her inclusion (in the plunder complaint), Ortaliza might just as well use it as a vehicle to delay the plunder trial on the ground that she was not given the chance to air her side," he said, adding:

"So in order to obviate any further complication, and there being a complaint formally filed against her, I have decided that a preliminary investigation be conducted to give her the opportunity to rebut the charge against her."

Justice Secretary Hernando Perez agreed with Desierto, saying "it might delay the ongoing proceedings if the plunder information is amended at this point."

In the five-page complaint, Yuviengco et al. said that because the crime of plunder was a complex one, "the accused former President could not (have done) it alone" and "needed very willing people to do his bidding."

The complainants said businessman and Estrada friend Jaime Dichaves was impleaded in the case after he was identified as one of the "Does" in the charge sheet.

"Another 'Doe' that has been fully identified in the trial of Criminal Case No. 26558 as having directly participated in the amassing and accumulation of wealth by, and conspired for the purpose with, the former President is Lucena 'Baby' Ortaliza. On that basis, she should be immediately impleaded as co-accused," the complainants said.

They noted that Ortaliza had been a trusted assistant of Estrada, and was a member of his staff when he was President and, earlier, Vice President.

They said she served as a "constant and consistent representative of then President Estrada in laundering with the banks substantial portions of the P4.1 billion of wealth unlawfully amassed."

ALARA System Inc
1-Sales
2-Inventory
3-Purchasing
4-Check Book
5-G. Ledger

Major Features
* Multi-warehouse/outlet/store (1 or many).
* Multi-user. * Customizable.
* Secured modules. * EZ to use.
* Stock-Card inventory. * Journals.
* Heaps of management reports.
* Quick to learn and easy to use.
* Very applicable for:
✓ Inventory oriented business.
✓ Business with multi-warehouse multi-store/multi-outlet, consignments, etc
✓ Buy & Sell, Importer, Trader, Distributor.

Very affordable
Call us at 372-4448
Ask for Albert

2nd Flr. Unit 13 Landsdale Arcade, Timog Ave. Q.C. (Hoka Hoka)

Begin a new life
Cure your bad breath
No need to consult with medical experts. The cause of bad breath has been diagnosed and pinpointed.
Therabreath™ System is the solution to the problem. It is guaranteed to cure *bad breath, bitter/sour taste, phlegm in throat, pasty saliva, awful morning breath.*
Free Delivery w/in Metro Mla.- Moneyback Guarantee
Call: Norville Fresh Breatheraphy Center
890-8380; 895-5532; 895-6775

100% Brand New & Recon COPIERS
RICOH • Canon • Olivetti • Savin
P14,999. ONLY LIQUID TYPE Best For Business/ Copy Center
P14,999. ONLY POWDER TYPE FT 3320 For Personal/ Office Use
P43,999. ONLY BRAND NEW DIGITAL COPIER + PRINTER
SALE!
Guaranteed Big Savings !!! Katun TONERS & PARTS For Use in SHARP, MITA, CANON RISO, TOSHIBA, MINOLTA, ETC.
Also Available: "Lease to Own/ Rental/ Trade-In * Repair of most Copier Brands * Ink for all Computer Printers
COPYTRADE® Copytrade Bldg. 550 MI Jhocson St. Sampaloc, Manila (Nr. NU)
Tels. 749-8155 to 56 781-3472 • 749-8216
Prov'l Outlets; Cebu: (032)2532402 Cabanatuan City (0919)4673223 Tarlac: (0918)-5738497

ELECTRO BHAGWAN
• Top-of-the-line model
• Fully Automatic
• Can be used with PVC or metal water pipe
• Does not require grounding
• Good for any water type
• FREE lifetime service
• Comes with FREE Handshower set

AUTO BHAGWAN
• Best for G.I. or metal pipes
• Newly-improved model
• Fully Automatic
• Trusted by customers for many years
• Comes with FREE Handshower set

BHAGWAN WATER HEATER
A SCHOOL OPENING OFFER:
Special Prices
On Selected Water Heaters And Filters
From June 4 to 22, 2002

We carry complete spare parts.
We service vintage models.
OTHER MODELS ALSO AVAILABLE.

Visit our showroom at:
#75 Sto. Domingo, cor. M. Aggregado Sts., Q.C.
Tel. Nos.: 712-0788 • 712-0799
Office Hours: 9 am to 12 nn / 1 pm to 5 pm
For Cebu, contact Shewalk's Engravables • Tels.: 255-4381/82

FREE Installation w/in Metro Manila
We accept convertions & home service
Repairs while you wait Free Delivery

Quality GENERICS at MANUFACTURER'S PRICE

Amoxicillin 250mg/5ml	Bot of 60ml	P19.67
Amoxicillin 125mg/5ml	Bot of 60ml	P14.92
Cefalexin 500mg Capsule	Box of 100's (Blister)	P340.00
Bromhexine 8mg Tablet	Box of 100's (Blister)	P33.00
Paracetamol 125mg/5ml	Bot of 60 ml	P11.00

WESTFIELD PHARMACEUTICALS, INC.
No. 95 Zuzuarregui St., Brgy Holy Spirit Diliman Q.C.
932-8331 / 932-8319 / 932-3267
DISTRIBUTORS / DEALERS / WHOLESALERS ARE WELCOME

RICOH COPIERS • WE TRANSACT 24 HRS/DAY FROM MONDAY TO SUNDAY
LIQUID TYPE P11,500 only
POWDER TYPE P15,000 only
Bond Paper P65 / ream
Dispersant P42 / ltr
U.S. DP. Toner P260 / ..
KAI General Mdse.
Tels 716-6110 • 780-0302 • 780-0304 • 780-4015
(INFRONT OF PUP ENGINEERING & ARCHITECTURE BLDG.)
AUTHORIZED DEALERS
LUZON:
VISAYAS:
MINDANAO:

CEBU PACIFIC You above all
BOEING 757 twice daily to Hongkong and 4x a week to Seoul
Citibank cardholder No surcharge

Ticket Only
HONGKONG OFW $100 Tourist $135
SEOUL OW $175 RT $350

HONGKONG PROMO PACKAGES
3 Days with Dimsum Lunch + Shenzhen Tour

Panda	$ 163
Dorset/Regal Riverside	$ 170
Shamrock/BP/Nathan Htl	$ 168
Ramada/Windsor/Imperial	$ 190
Hol. Inn/M. Polo Gateway/Prince	$ 228
2N Hkg/1N Shenzhen (min of 3 pax)	$ 194
1N Hkg./2N Macau (Ramada/Htl Royal) Dep. SAT. (Min of 10 PAX)	$ 258

Hkg/China 7 Days (Min of 6 pax)

Shen/Canton/Zhuhai/Macau	$ 320
Shenzhen/Beijing	$ 430
Shen/Shanghai/Hangzhou	$ 510

HKG/SHEN/BKK 7 Days $ 402
Star Cruise Leo 3 Days $ 486
Also Available:
Int'l/Domestic Tkts All Airlines Tour Packages / Hotel Pkgs Worldwide
Passport / VISA / Immigration Assistance Travel Insurance / Financing Plans
TRANSNATIONAL TRAVEL & TOURS, INC.
MAKATI: 753-3388 / 3005 / 1121 • 817-1566 / 1571 • 894-0974
Fax: 753-5588 • E-mail: tnt_anee@abacus.com.ph
Text your queries to (0917) 535-1581 / 791-8235
Mandaluyong: 747-1284 • 531-0212 • Fax: 532-5715

LAFAYETTE PHARMACEUTICAL LABORATORIES, INC.
" Quality is our Best Policy"
QUALITY GENERICS AT VERY COMPETITIVE PRICES
We Welcome Distributors, Wholesalers and Retailers Nationwide
FOR INQUIRIES PLS. CALL
LAFAYETTE PHARMACEUTICALS
#132 13th Avenue Cubao, Q.C.
Tel.No.: 437-5139 / 913-3724
911 - 7292 / Telefax: 913-3723

INTERNATIONAL PACKAGE

4D/3N HONGKONG	$177	3D/2N SAIGON	$273
4D/3N BANGKOK	$245	4D/3N KUALA	$330
4D/3N SINGAPORE	$293	3D/2N GUAM	$415

BEST OF NEW ZEALAND 5D/4N $900
AUSTRALIA CITI PACKS 4D/3N $633
PACKAGE FOR NURSES 3D/2N $420
HONGKONG-XIAMEN 7D/6N $274

DOMESTIC PACKAGES		TICKETS ONLY	
3D/2N PALAWAN	P7,999	HONGKONG	$140
3D/2N BORACAY	P8,750	BANGKOK	$228
CORREGIDOR(DAYTOUR)	P1,000	SINGAPORE	$288
3D/2N BANAUE	P3,950	SEOUL	$406
3D/2N CEBU	P6,610	LOS ANGELES	$819
3D/2N BOHOL	P6,210	SAN FRANCISCO	$826
VILLA ESCUDERO	P 900	EUROPE	$725

GRAJAN INT'L TRAVEL & TOURS
1F Queensland Building, #4 Cagayan St., cor. Congressional Ave., Bagobantay, Quezon City
Tel.: 453-1312, 921-0697, 9267054, 9272166, 9267120
Look for Marie, Alelie, Jackie, Jenny or Nessie
DAVAO OFFICE: # 427 J.Palma Gil St. Davao City
Tel. (082) 224-6275/76 look for Ava. Boots. Edit & Nena
PTAA
D.O.T. ACCREDITATION NO. TO 087 2001

UNIVERSITY OF THE EAST PHILIPPINES
UE COLLEGE ENTRANCE TEST (UE CET)
SCHOOL YEAR 2002-2003

SCHEDULE:
MANILA CAMPUS – Monday to Friday until June14, 2002; 9:00 a.m.-12:00 nn & 2:00-5:00 p.m. Venue: UE FRASI and E. C. Yap Seminar Rooms, 2F F. T. Dalupan Bldg., 2219 C. M. Recto Avenue, Manila
CALOOCAN CAMPUS – Monday to Friday until June 14, 2002; 8:00-11:00 a.m. & 1:00-4:00 p.m. Venue: Multi-Purpose Hall, 3F College of Engineering Bldg., 105 Samson Road, Caloocan City

ENROLLMENT GOING ON
CLASSES START JUNE 13
1ST SEM., SY2002-2003

INITIAL ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS:
1. Newly High School Graduates submit Form 138. For High School Graduates prior to SY2001-2002, submit Form 138 and a certification that form 137-A has not been forwarded to any college or university in the Philippines or abroad.;
2. Certification of Good Moral Character;
3. Two (2) copies 2" x 2" photo; &
4. UE CET fee of P250.00

AVAILABLE SCHOLARSHIPS & SERVICE GRANTS: The New Integrated Scholarship Program (University President Scholar, University Scholar, College Scholar); Pres. Francisco Dalupan Sr. Scholarship; UE-Tan Yan Kee Foundation, Inc. Scholarships; The Integrated Service Grant Program (Athletic Service Grant, Cultural Service Grant–*UE Chorale, UE Band, UE Dance Troupe, & UE Drama Co.*, ROTC Service Grant and Student Assistantship); Other Non-UE Funded Scholarships. *For detailed info*, call up the Dean of Students' Office, tel. nos. 735-54-71 loc. 423 or 735-85-64

For inquiries, visit: UE MANILA CAMPUS – OFFICE OF ADMISSIONS, G/F Main Lobby, Dalupan Sr. Bldg., 2219 C.M. Recto Avenue or call up tel. nos. 735-54-71 loc 398 or 399 • E-mail: admission@ue.edu.ph • Web site: //www.ue.edu.ph; UE CALOOCAN CAMPUS – OFFICE OF ADMISSIONS, G/F Administration Bldg., 105 Samson Road, Caloocan City or call up tel. nos. 367-47-87 • E-mail: admission@uec.edu.ph • Web site: //www.uec.edu.ph

Justice demanded for death of Bayan leader in Mindoro

CHURCH workers yesterday demanded justice for a slain official of Bayan Muna in Oriental Mindoro and condemned the human rights violations allegedly committed by the military against activists in the province.

Bishop Alan Ray Sarte, national co-chair of the Promotion of Church People's Response (PCPR), said Congress and the Commission on Human Rights should look into the killing of Edilberto Napolez Jr., on May 28 outside its office in the capital city of Calapan.

Napolez, 26, was coordinator of Bayan Muna-Oriental Mindoro and spokesperson of the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan in the province.

Sarte said the death of Napolez, added to the numerous cases of murder, abduction, forced disappearance and grave harassment supposedly inflicted by military and militia men on leaders and members of Bayan Muna, Bayan, Karapatan and other cause-oriented groups.

"We are aware that Napolez is not the first victim of military atrocities committed by elements of the 204th Brigade headed by Col. Jovito Palparan in Mindoro," Sarte said.

He said that from October to December last year, churches affiliated with the National Council of Churches in the Philippines served as sanctuaries for the Mangyans forced to flee their homes because of large-scale military operations in Mindoro.

"Before they cause any more deaths and displacement of peasants and indigenous peoples, Colonel Palparan and his abusive soldiers must be prosecuted and punished for the rising cases of human rights abuses against members of people's organizations and the civilian population," Sarte said.

Cause-oriented groups have accused the military in Mindoro of maintaining a "death squad" to sow terror against activists.

Military denial

But Palparan denied this. He said he did not know the "hatchet men" of Napolez and that there had been "more than 100 killings" even before he and his men were stationed in Mindoro.

"But we will conduct our own investigation," he added.

Sarte said the PCPR supported the resolution filed by Bayan Muna representatives in Congress seeking a formal investigation of the killings, abductions and harassment of Bayan Muna leaders and members and other activists.

"We join their families and colleagues in mourning and in strongly demanding that the (CHR) and President Macapagal-Arroyo order the speedy investigation, prosecution and punishment of all the perpetrators," he said.

On Sunday, members of the Pamalakaya-Southern Tagalog held a rally in Calapan denouncing the killing of Napolez.

Group chair Francisco Caisip said it was the Macapagal administration's alleged policy of "terrorism and militarist rule" that led to the killing, wherein Ruel Landicho of the fisherfolk group was wounded.

According to Pamalakaya documents, Napolez is the 15th member of militant groups in the region killed in recent years by assassins allegedly connected with the military.

The 14 others were identified as Emilio Santillan of Naujan; Ruben Apolinar, Expedito Albarillo and Manuela Albarillo, all of San Teodoro; Ramon Ternida of Calapan; Rolando Cabagay, Roger Fernando and Ildeponso Procal, all of Mansalay; Budbud Usting, Emman Florendo, Isaias Magarzo, Erwin Bacarra, Rodrigo Apolinar and Nina Apolinar. ***Reports from Gerald G. Lacuarta in Manila; Romulo O. Ponte and Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

Owwa workers picket merger

AROUND 500 employees of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration yesterday staged a picket after learning that Malacañang was paving the way for the merger of the agency and the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration.

Allan Ignacio, president of the Welfarefund Employees Association, said President Macapagal-Arroyo would announce on Friday the suspension of collection of the $25 Owwa membership fee from all documented overseas Filipino workers.

Ignacio said the union had gotten hold of a copy of the President's speech for Migrant Workers Day, which will be celebrated on Friday.

"The mere suspension of the $25 membership fee virtually means stopping the operations of the Owwa both here and abroad," he said. ***Blanche S. Rivera***

ASIAN PACKAGES

HONG KONG 4D/3N via PR $190
BANGKOK 4D/3N via PR $265
SINGAPORE 4D/3N $300

TICKET ONLY (ROUND TRIP)

Hong Kong	$165	Seoul	$400	New York	$970
Bangkok	$245	Sydney	$630	Vancouver	$845
Singapore	$245	Tokyo	$420	Toronto	$970
Taipei	$335	LAX / SFO	$830		

Domestic Tickets Available

FLIGHT INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL & TOURS
Tel. Nos.: 536-9390 • 400-5017 • 404-2043
E-mail Address: flight1@info.com.ph

CCTV Surveillance Camera
BIG Discount High Quality
TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OUR PROMO PRICE!!!

Mini Digital B/W 4,275 COLOR 6,400
Waterproof B/W 4,275 COLOR 5,560
Dome type B/W 4,275 COLOR 6,840
Pinhole type B/W 3,850 COLOR 5,560

2.4 GHz Wireless Video/ Audio Monitoring System
- Easy Installation / NO CABLE COST
- Easy Connect w/ any Home, TV, VCR, VHS, DVD, & others
- Built in 4-cam switcher

Dial into your business, branches, warehouses, residence or factories and see live video anytime...anywhere!!!

TeleEye III

MICROSERVE Co.
4115264 • 3651446 • 3611654
3618267• 3650897

Distributor of Tele Eye Remote Monitoring System
TeleEye Dial to any remote site & see live video of everything that is happening there day or night!

PROMO PACKAGES

BEST DEAL! [illegible]

CORREGIDOR
Day Tour Php 650/person
Overnight Php 1,690/person
RT Ferryboat Transfers, Shrine & Terminal fees, Guided Island Tour by Tranvia Bus and Hotel Accom. w/ Lunch for Overnight Stay.

BORACAY
3D/2N Php 6,500/person
RT Airfare via Air Philippines with Transfers, Accomodation at Sun Village Resort w/ Bfast & Welcome drink.

INTERNATIONAL PACKAGES

HONGKONG/SHENZHEN	4D/3N	$190
HONGKONG/SHENZHEN/MACAU ZHUHAI/CANTON	4D/3N	$238
BANGKOK	4D/3N	$249
BANGKOK(2N)/PATTAYA(1N)	4D/3N	$258
SINGAPORE	4D/3N	$300
SINGAPORE(3N)/BANGKOK(3N)	7D/6N	$485

OTHER SERVICES OFFERED: • PASSPORTING • VISA ASSISTANCE • INT'L & DOM. TICKETING • TRAVEL INSURANCE

WINTREX TRAVEL CORPORATION

We fix all computer problems!
Expert in VIRUS Removal
PCMed TECHNICIANS
CALL OUR HOTLINE 303-8888
☑ ON-SITE ☑ FAST ☑ EXPERIENCED ☑ GUARANTEED ☑ AFFORDABLE

LET US TAKE YOUR (BAD) BREATH AWAY!
Regain the confidence taken away by bad breath. Our clinic offers safe, sure and discreet solution to this problem.
We have a unique bacteria locator, the HALIMETER apparatus complemented by the most effective patented medication and treatment.
Succeeding treatments are FREE!
Also Available: Teeth Bleaching • Dental Clinic For Lease/Sharing
Suite #224 Atrium Bldg., Makati Ave., Makati City
Tel. No. 811-4071 • 752-4735

GENERICS FACTORY PRICE
CASH, No Minimum Order, Money Back Guarantee
MARCH 8, 2002

Amoxicillin cap 500 mg	Box of 100's	P 180.00
Carbocisteine cap 500 mg	Box of 100's	113.00
Cephalexin cap 500 mg	Box of 100's	354.00
Cloxacillin cap 500 mg	Box of 100's	225.00
Co-trimoxazole cap (400/80mg)	Box of 100's	98.00
Co-trimoxazole susp.(200/40mg)	Bot. of 60 ml	12.50
Mefenamic Acid cap 500 mg	Box of 100's	96.00
Multi-Vitamin Cap	Box of 100's	93.00
Multi-Vitamin Syrup	Bot. of 60 ml	15.40
Paracetamol syrup 250mg/5ml	Bot. of 60 ml	12.50
Paracetamol tab 500 mg	Box of 100's	31.00
Salbutamol tab 2 mg	Box of 100's	37.00
Vitamin E Cap 400 I.U. (USA)	Bot. of 500's	1,250.00

CNN GENERICS, R-210 L C Bldg., 459 Quezon Ave., Quezon City
More products available at website: www.cnn-generics.com
DEALERS & DISTRIBUTORS ARE WELCOME

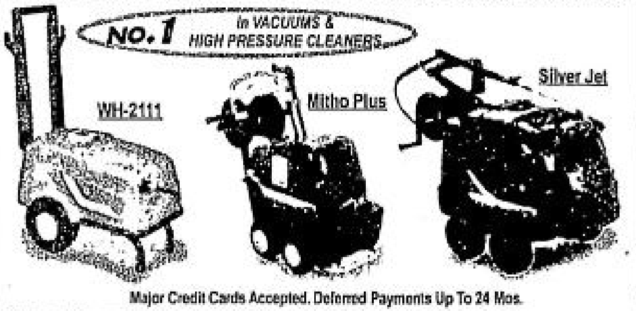
KITANO®/K8 www.nibo88.com
HEAVY DUTY TIME RECORDERS
- 57 programs NEW
- Balance printing
- 2 color printing
- Melody function
- 5 years data protection
- UPS Back-up system

CHECKWRITER
DOCUMENT SHREDDERS
- Durable & Reliable
- Max. of 12 sheets
- Shreds paper clips, staples, credit cards
- Noiseless design

LAMINATORS
- Hot & Cold
- Adjustable Temperature
- All sizes available

HEAVY DUTY BINDING MACHINE All types available
STAMPING MACHINE SEIKO Made in Japan
Makati Tel.: 8905310 • 8905320 • 8905327 • 8967764

The Reliable Industrial Hot & Cold High Pressure Washers
NO.1 in VACUUMS & HIGH PRESSURE CLEANERS



Major Credit Cards Accepted. Deferred Payments Up To 24 Mos.
With AFTER SALES SERVICE FREE DELIVERY within Metro Manila
Exclusively Distributed by:
CLEANCITY COMMERCIAL, INC.
Accepts Repair of all Kinds of High-pressure Washers & Vacuum Cleaners.
MAIN OFFICE: 1851 M. OROSA ST., MALATE, MLA.
Tel. Nos.: 5244472 • 5240529 • 5245290
Nextel: 49888 • Globe: 0917-7896670
Smart: 0918-5367577
QUEZON CITY BRANCHES:
• 646 QUEZON AVE. Tel. 7490581 • 7493709
• 162 DEL MONTE AVE. NR. COR. ROOSEVELT AVE. Tel. 4101086 • 3724429

PC BODEGA 12A Doña Juana Rodriguez New Manila Q.C 721-4482 / 721-4682 / 724-7905 . 724-7819
Now we have two more outlets to serve you!!!
PC DEPOT Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall 682-8618 / 682-8619 Viramall Shopping Center 725-8519 / 725-8792
Guaranteed Best Price & All Brand New Components!!!

P4 INTIMIDATOR ▶▶Pentium 4 1.6 GHz 128MB MEMORY, 40GB HardDisk Built-in 32MB Savage Pro, 32bit Audio, 60X CD-Drive, 1.44MB FDD, ATXCase 14" Colored Monitor, 56K Modem 500W AVR, 180W SPKer "INTERNET READY" P22,800

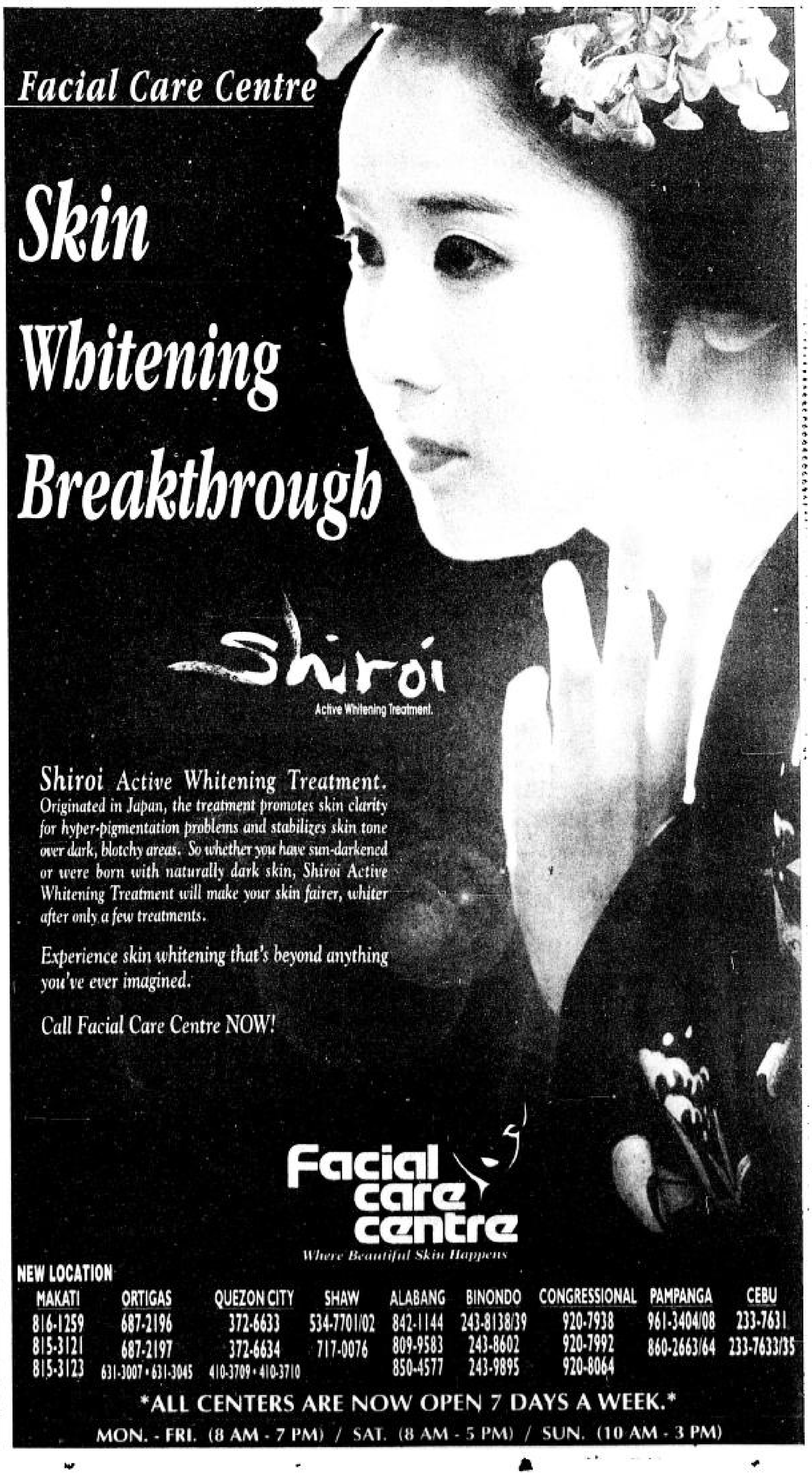
PCB ELECTRON ▶▶AMD Duron 1 GHz 128MB MEMORY, Video Accelerator 20GB HardDisk, 32bit Audio, 60X CD-Drive, 1.44MB FDD, ATXCase 14" Colored Monitor, 56K Modem 500W AVR, 180W SPKer "INTERNET READY" P16,900

PCB SMALL OFFICE ▶▶Celeron 1.1 Ghz 128MB MEMORY, Video Accelerator 40GB HardDisk, 32bit Audio, 52X CD-Drive, 1.44MB FDD, ATXCase 14" Colored Monitor, 56K Modem 500W AVR, 180W SPKer "INTERNET READY" P18,000

More PC Packages are available and also in Black Color
The Best CD-Drive Ever! SONY CDRW 24x10x40 - 5,350 DVD 16x48 - 3,350
Seagate HARDISK 40GB 5400rpm - 3,550 7200rpm - 4,250
www.pcbodega.com.ph ◀ Order Online !!!

SOLAR SATELLITE DISH
All you need is SUNSHINE to enjoy Wireless TV
The Solar Satellite Dish System gets its power from the sun so you can see your favorite cable news, entertainment or sports program anywhere in the country!
Solar energy, as well as wind energy, provide continuous power 24 hours a day, rain or shine. And since the wireless hook up is digital, expect to see clear and crisp pictures and hear real stereo quality sound anytime of the day.

SOLAR ELECTRIC COMPANY INC. 1976
Providing Alternative Power since 1976
Entertainment from the Sun and Wind is just a call away!
MANILA OFFICE Tel. nos.:(632) 724-4812 & 726-4322 Fax:(632) 724-0223
ILOILO OFFICE Tel. nos.: (033) 320-0368 & 508-3134 Fax: (033) 320-0368
LAGUNA SATELLITE OFFICE Tel. no. 0919-8178712 Fax: (049) 827-1271



Shiroi Active Whitening Treatment.
Originated in Japan, the treatment promotes skin clarity for hyper-pigmentation problems and stabilizes skin tone over dark, blotchy areas. So whether you have sun-darkened or were born with naturally dark skin, Shiroi Active Whitening Treatment will make your skin fairer, whiter after only a few treatments.

Experience skin whitening that's beyond anything you've ever imagined.

Call Facial Care Centre NOW!

Facial care centre
Where Beautiful Skin Happens

NEW LOCATION

MAKATI	ORTIGAS	QUEZON CITY	SHAW	ALABANG	BINONDO	CONGRESSIONAL	PAMPANGA	CEBU
816-1259	687-2196	372-6633	534-7701/02	842-1144	243-8138/39	920-7938	961-3404/08	233-7631
815-3121	687-2197	372-6634	717-0076	809-9583	243-8602	920-7992	860-2663/64	233-7633/35
815-3123	631-3007 • 631-3045	410-3709 • 410-3710		850-4577	243-9895	920-8064		

ALL CENTERS ARE NOW OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK.
MON. - FRI. (8 AM - 7 PM) / SAT. (8 AM - 5 PM) / SUN. (10 AM - 3 PM)

Public school execs warned on fee collections

WARNINGS against public school officials requiring enrollees to pay fees grew louder yesterday as school opening drew near.

Education Secretary Raul Roco said officials who collect fees before admitting enrollees face imprisonment.

The Iloilo City council and the Iloilo provincial board issued the same warning.

"The law orders that you cannot collect even a single centavo in all public schools," Roco said in an interview with radio station dzGE in Naga City on Sunday.

Roco said public schools should turn to local governments, and not to pupils and parents, for help should they need additional funds.

Cecilia Capadosa, chair of the Iloilo provincial board's committee on women, family and education, said the resolution she authored sought to stop the collection of school fees for purposes "that were beyond (those) mandated (and) sanctioned by the Department of Education."

She said some of these fees were "excessive" and were a "great burden to poor peasant parents."

Capadosa urged the public and media to monitor the fees being collected by public schools.

"There is a need for a collective effort . . . not only from the members of this august body, but from all citizens who believe that quality education is a basic right," she said.

The Iloilo City council passed a similar resolution authored by Councilor Erlinda Liberiaga, chair of the council's committee on education.

Liberiaga said in her resolution that the Constitution assures "the protection and promotion of the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels" and poverty should not deprive them of this right.

Liberiaga's resolution said majority of students enrolled in public elementary and secondary schools come from low-income families who "are not spared (from) the adverse effects of our strained economy."

Roco issued Order No. 12 on April 17 warning public school officials and administrators against requiring fees from enrollees.

The order was based on Republic Act 5546 or the Ganzon Law that banned the collection of compulsory contributions in public elementary and high schools.

Roco ordered the suspension of two regional directors of the education department last year, including regional director Victoriano Tirol of Western Visayas, after receiving reports that public schools in Iloilo collected fees from parents during enrollment in violation of Roco's order.

The Iloilo City council and Iloilo provincial board passed the resolutions after youth groups, led by the Iloilo Youth and Student Alliance (IYSA) and Anakbayan wrote to complain of rising costs of education in private and public schools.

Among private schools, 37 of 61 schools in the region or 61 percent, increased their tuition by an average of 13.5 percent.

The number of schools that increased tuition was less than the 46 schools that raised their fees in school year 2001-2002. But the average increase was higher than last year's 13 percent.

Colleges and universities also received a warning from the Commission on Higher Education (CHEd) against failing to report increases in tuition and failing to allot portions of the increase for teachers and school personnel.

The CHEd said it would watch at least 140 private universities and colleges in Central Luzon for violations of rules on increasing tuition.

Administrative and criminal charges would be filed against those who violate the guidelines, Virginia Resurreccion, CHEd regional director, said.

Only 38 private schools reported increasing their tuition and other fees this school year by between 10 and 20 percent, a report from the commission showed.

There is currently no law banning private universities and colleges from increasing tuition or requiring them to put a cap on fee increases.

The Education Act of 1992 allows private schools to determine their rates for tuition and other fees. The CHEd comes in to regulate the procedures and not the amount of increases.

TEMPORARILY CLOSED due to INUTILITY
RE-FORM
ABOLISHED
RM

YOUTH members of the militant group Sanlakas place a symbolic padlock at the main gate of the Commission on Higher Education office in Pasig City in protest against tuition increases.

DENNIS SABANGAN

A CHEd memorandum issued in 1998 spelled out steps for schools intending to collect higher fees. The same order requires schools to use 70 percent of the tuition increase proceeds for the "payment of increase in salaries, wages, allowances and other benefits of their teaching and non-teaching personnel and other staff."

The CHEd in the region, however, missed out on its monitoring task.

"There were no actual visits in schools to check actual tuition increase. We depended entirely on the reports of schools and acted on complaints on a per report basis," a CHEd source told the INQUIRER.

This virtually left private schools without a watchdog, the source said.

Resurreccion said the commission focused more on screening the courses and programs of universities and colleges.

This year, the CHEd in the region would go to the "extent of looking at payrolls" to ensure that 70 percent of the increase goes to teaching and non-teaching personnel, she said.

In Central Luzon, the commission has only seven program supervisors helping 153 private and public universities and colleges.

Princess Yadao, regional chair of the Youth for National Democracy, said the CHEd "remains a powerless if not an inutile commission." ***Juan Escandor Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau; Nestor P. Burgos, PDI Visayas Bureau and Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk***

7 Abu bandits killed in clashes

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Seven Abu Sayyaf guerrillas, including the younger brother of Isnilon Hapilon, one of the kidnap gang's five commanders in Basilan, have been killed in clashes with security forces, officials said Monday.

Soldiers bombarded the bandits' stronghold near the town of Indanan in southern Jolo Island with artillery fire on Sunday, Army Col. Romeo Tolentino said.

Six rebels were killed in two hours of fighting, while several others were believed wounded, including Abu Pula, an Abu Sayyaf leader in Jolo with a P5-million bounty on his head, Tolentino said.

Also on Sunday, police forces stormed the Abus' hideout in the village of Baluno, Zamboanga, after receiving information that Bakkal Hapilon had been hiding there, nursing gunshot wounds.

Hapilon put up a fight but was killed, said regional police director Chief Supt. Simeon Dizon.

Abu Pula was among those who planned and executed the kidnapping of dozens of Europeans and Asians in two Malaysian resorts in 2000. ***AFP***

Reporter hurt in bombing

COTABATO CITY—A television reporter is now out of danger, hours after suffering leg injuries from a grenade attack on his home late Sunday night.

Two unidentified men on a motorbike tossed the grenade onto the roof of Salatiel Sacil's two-story house on Tandang Sora Street as his family slept, police said.

The grenade rolled down and exploded right outside Sacil's room, shattering the windows. He suffered shrapnel wounds on the left leg.

Witnesses saw the bombers speed away. Tandang Sora is a densely populated area.

It was the second grenade attack in this city in six days, and the 15th explosion this year.

Supt. Sanggacala Dampac, city police chief, said Sacil, 38, could have been mistaken for someone else. A reporter for the local ABS-CBN station, Sacil said he had no known enemies. In fact, Dampac told reporters, it looked like the attackers "miscalculated" in tossing the grenade.

Nevertheless, local media groups urged the police to dig deeper. Journalists have often been targets of armed groups, including Moro rebels.

Last month, a broadcaster for a community newspaper was shot and killed in nearby Zamboanga del Sur. Two other radio stations in the south were the targets of bomb attacks last month. ***Edwin O. Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

AN IMPORTANT NOTICE

Our client, **KOLONWEL TRADING of 675 Sabino Padilla (formerly Gandara) Street, Binondo, Manila,** is the **Sole** and **Exclusive Distributor/Local Agent** of Ferd. Piatnik and Sohne of Vienna, Austria, manufacturer of **Piatnik Playing Cards** being distributed in the Philippines. **Criminal, Civil and Administrative** actions for infringement or unfair competition with damages in either case, lie in favor of our client for the appropriation of said exclusive distributorship agreement.

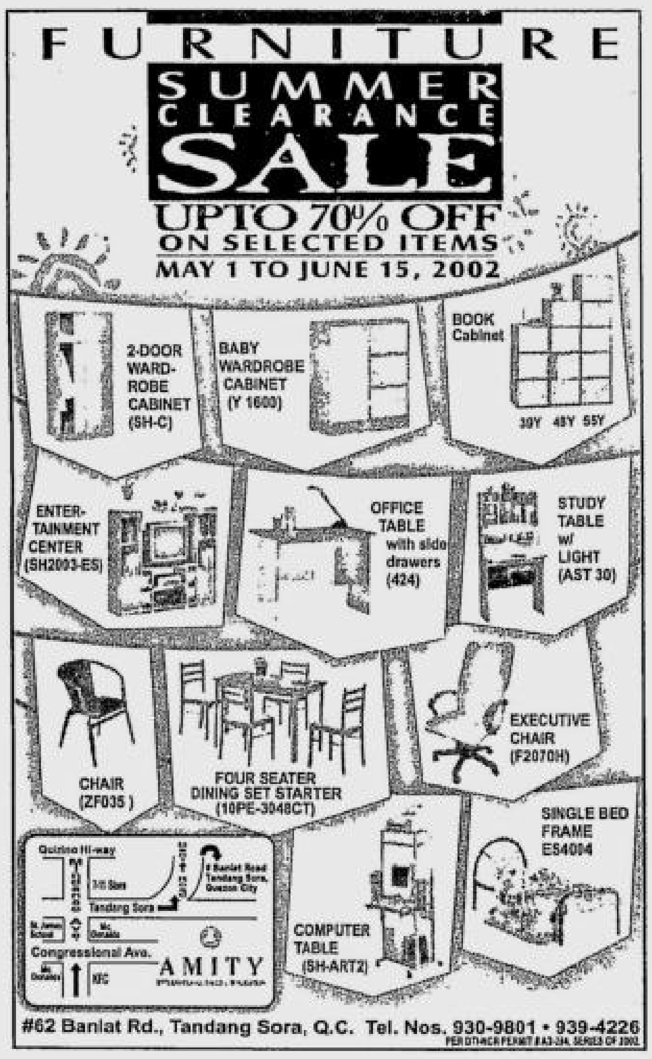
Trademark infringement and unfair competition are penal offenses under the Intellectual Property Code punishable by fine and imprisonment.

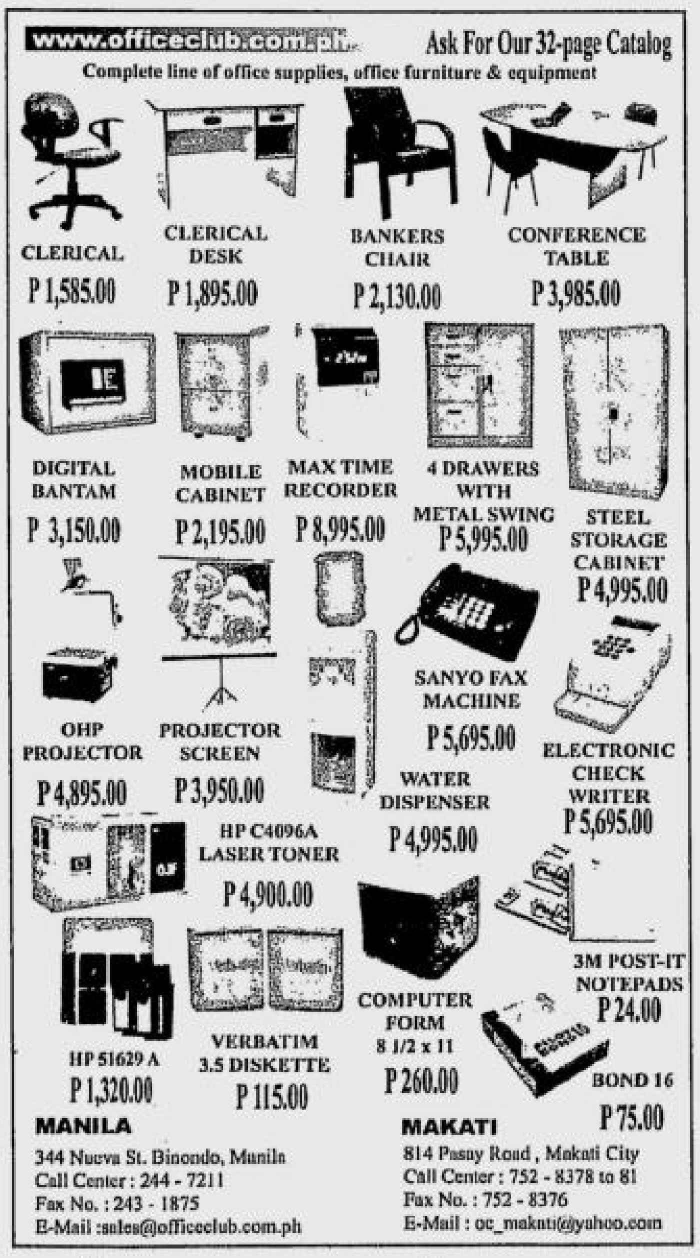
Hereafter, any person or company who shall engage in the importation, sale, distribution or disposition of Piatnik Playing Cards **without the express consent of KOLONWEL TRADING** will likewise be **CRIMINALLY** and **CIVILLY** charged.

Law Firm of Valdez-Sales & Associates
Counsel for Kolonwel Trading
Suite 700 Victoria Building
429 U.N. Avenue, Ermita, Manila

advt

Cut this Ad worth 1 FREE YoYo Balloon Coffee Mug
BALLOON BUSINESS!
■ WORKSHOP SKED.: EVERY WED. or SAT.
■ RESERVATION REQUIRED
■ WITH FREE 2 YOYO BALLOONS!
C.B.E.
YoYo Balloons
(Located at SM Supermalls)
ENTRANCE DECOR
ONLY P22,500.00 INITIAL CAPITAL AND YOU CAN START YOUR OWN BALLOON BUSINESS RIGHT AWAY!
INCLUDES:
- Starter Kit: 1,000 + Imported U.S. Balloons (Different Sizes, Colors & Shapes)
- Balloon Pumps, (BIG AND SMALL)
- Balloon Printing Set
- Balloon Sticks and Cups, Clip Sticks
- Giant Balloon Drop Bags w/ Balloons
- Training Workshop Conducted by U.S. Trained Balloon Experts
- Certificate, Free Lunch and Snack
- Pictures, Brochures and more
- Practicum at 5 Star Hotel or other venues
OPTIONAL: Imported Electric Inflator P7,500.00 each
SALE! -11" Rnd. U.S.A PRL. Balloons (P4.50 each) -5" Rnd. U.S.A STD Balloons (P1.95 each)
WE WILL SHOW YOU HOW WITH OUR FREE WORKSHOP!
SUBMIT THIS AD WHEN YOU PAY AND WE WILL GIVE YOU FREE 1 YOYO BALLOON COFFEE MUG.
Call or Visit: YOYO BALLOONS 18-D Xavierville Avenue, Loyola Heights, Quezon City, Philippines
Tel. Nos.: 922-5543 • 426-2973 • 920-1440 • Fax No.: 922-0068
YOU CAN USE YOUR OWN TRADE MARK! NO NEED TO PAY ANY FRANCHISE FEE!
VALID UNTIL 29 JUNE 2002
THIS ADVERTISEMENT APPEARS EVERY TUESDAY


FURNITURE
SUMMER CLEARANCE SALE
UPTO 70% OFF ON SELECTED ITEMS
MAY 1 TO JUNE 15, 2002
2-DOOR WARDROBE CABINET (SH-C)
BABY WARDROBE CABINET (Y 1600)
BOOK Cabinet 30Y 45Y 55Y
ENTERTAINMENT CENTER (SH2003-ES)
OFFICE TABLE with side drawers (424)
STUDY TABLE w/ LIGHT (AST 30)
CHAIR (ZF035)
FOUR SEATER DINING SET STARTER (10PE-3048CT)
EXECUTIVE CHAIR (F2070H)
SINGLE BED FRAME E54004
COMPUTER TABLE (SH-ART2)
Quirino Hi-way
Tandang Sora
Congressional Ave.
AMITY
#62 Banlat Rd., Tandang Sora, Q.C. Tel. Nos. 930-9801 • 939-4226


www.officeclub.com.ph
Ask For Our 32-page Catalog
Complete line of office supplies, office furniture & equipment
CLERICAL P 1,585.00
CLERICAL DESK P 1,895.00
BANKERS CHAIR P 2,130.00
CONFERENCE TABLE P 3,985.00
DIGITAL BANTAM P 3,150.00
MOBILE CABINET P 2,195.00
MAX TIME RECORDER P 8,995.00
4 DRAWERS WITH METAL SWING P 5,995.00
STEEL STORAGE CABINET P 4,995.00
SANYO FAX MACHINE P 5,695.00
OHP PROJECTOR P 4,895.00
PROJECTOR SCREEN P 3,950.00
WATER DISPENSER P 4,995.00
ELECTRONIC CHECK WRITER P 5,695.00
HP C4096A LASER TONER P 4,900.00
3M POST-IT NOTEPADS P 24.00
HP 51629 A P 1,320.00
VERBATIM 3.5 DISKETTE P 115.00
COMPUTER FORM 8 1/2 x 11 P 260.00
BOND 16 P 75.00

MANILA
344 Nueva St. Binondo, Manila
Call Center : 244 - 7211
Fax No. : 243 - 1875
E-Mail :sales@officeclub.com.ph

MAKATI
814 Pasay Road , Makati City
Call Center : 752 - 8378 to 81
Fax No. : 752 - 8376
E-Mail : oc_makati@yahoo.com

El Niño budget short by P400M

LOOKS like the long dry spell just got drier.

The Department of Agriculture has an action plan to reduce the impact of the El Niño weather phenomenon, but it is short by at least P400 million.

Agriculture Secretary Leonardo Montemayor presented to Malacañang a P2.9-billion El Niño action plan last week, for use in case the drought in agricultural provinces worsens later this year, but yesterday he said the department had only a P2.5-billion budget for it.

President Macapagal-Arroyo has already approved the plan, Montemayor said, but no additional budget has been reserved. "We are trying to locate additional sources for financing," he said.

The secretary said the P2.5-billion budget for the El Niño action plan consisted of P1.1 billion from the House of Representatives, a P700-million realignment in the DA budget, P500 million in production credits from the Land Bank of the Philippines, and P200 million in tobacco excise taxes.

The department, he said, was considering raising funds through the US Public Loan 480. The United States government uses the facility to dispose of its surplus agricultural products as a loan.

The DA may sell the products and use the proceeds to plug the hole in the El Niño fund.

The action plan will establish and rehabilitate irrigation systems, especially in drought-prone areas such as Cagayan, most of Central Luzon, Iloilo, and South Cotabato.

It will also launch cloud-seeding operations and provide production support, such as livelihood programs, to farmers who cannot plant during the season. ***Gerald G. Lacuarta***

Storm over pedophile shakes churches

ELSA, a physical therapy teacher, says she was about 7 years old when a priest in her hometown groped her breast and thighs. It happened in her house not once, not twice, but many times over.

Devastated and seared by guilt, she blocked everything from her mind for 20 years until 1993, when it came back to her after she stumbled on a news item about a young girl sexually molested by an uncle.

"I don't know if I want to see the priest again . . . I am still angry. I think the Church should acknowledge that these things are happening," Elsa, the only name she wants to go by, said.

Now 35, married and freed from her past after counseling by a nun, Elsa is one of an unknown number of victims of pedophiles in priest's robes in Asia's largest Roman Catholic country.

Her story, like those of others elsewhere in Asia, has come to light in the wake of a sex abuse scandal, which has shaken the Catholic Church in the United States.

Another case reported in local media involved two teenage boys sexually abused by a priest in 1990.

"You will taste the food of God," one of the boys quoted the priest as saying, as the cleric wrapped him in his arms.

Christianity is dwarfed by Islam, Hinduism and Buddhism in Asia, but like other clergy in the region, Catholic priests wield huge influence over their flock. It takes rare courage for a victim to speak out against sexual abuse by a priest.

Sexual deviation among Catholic priests does not appear to be a problem in mainly Hindu India or in Singapore, where Buddhism has the largest following.

But in Hong Kong, at least six priests are alleged to have sexually abused children over the last 30 years.

The Hong Kong Catholic diocese, which found two of the priests guilty, is under strong public pressure to explain why it never reported the incidents to the police.

Cloak of silence

Until the US scandal erupted, the same cloak of silence had shrouded the Church in the Philippines, where 85 percent of the 76 million people are Catholic.

Church officials recently admitted that 1.6 percent of the local clergy have been sexually active. For the first time, they publicly apologized for what the wayward among them had done.

Although abuse of minors was not specifically mentioned, priests privately said that pedophilia was a problem.

"This is a period of purification for us. We have to make hard decisions," said Msgr. Hernando Coronel, secretary general of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines.

Composed of 120 bishops, the CBCP represents the Church hierarchy in the Philippines. It will meet in July to draw up a protocol setting out guidelines on priestly conduct and laying down sanctions.

Failure to act decisively could erode not only the Church's moral clout among its flock but seriously damage its efforts to spread the Gospel across Asia, clergymen say.

"The denial stage is over. The worst thing now is procrastination," activist priest Robert Reyes said. "The danger is . . . we will not be taken seriously any more."

"What kind of religion shall we preach, a religion that just pretends to want to change things but will not . . . sweep the dirt out of its own house?"

In his 20 years as a priest, Reyes has heard of about 50 cases of sexual deviation among clerics, some involving minors.

A complete picture of the extent of sexual activity in a community with a vow of celibacy is impossible, he said.

Gay bishops

"That kind of statistic will never be out. I don't even know if the bishops will be brave enough to conduct a survey because that will include them," Reyes said.

"If the surveys are honest it should include how many of the bishops are gay and how many are not."

In the Philippines, the Church holds sway in everyday life, including politics, but priests worry its influence will wane.

"If a stigma is cast on priests, this will damage our work. This issue of pedophilia will set us back," said Fr. Carmelo Caluag, who holds spiritual training workshops for young people. "It will make our missionary work more difficult."

But the Church is also worried wholesale expulsions will cut the already low numbers of men of the cloth. The Philippines has only 7,200 priests ministering to a flock of over 60 million.

Coronel said rehabilitation through counseling or therapy would be a priority.

"If his (a priest's) weakness is young boys, we will put him up as a chaplain of old nuns. That's one recommendation. You have to keep them away from where there are temptations to sin," Coronel said.

Reyes is concerned the Church will be overwhelmed by lawsuits unless it acts quickly to make amends to the victims.

"We no longer have the luxury of time . . . We are just waiting for the inevitable." ***Reuters***

KILL ARTHRITIS in5 MINUTES

INSTANT PAIN KILLER DEVICE

- Stops ARTHRITIS in minutes!
- No Pills. No side effects
- Ideal for Rheumatism, Gout and Nerve Numbness
- Also for Stroke / Paralysis Theraphy at home
- Handy and battery-operated

NISSEI NERVE STIMULATOR

"fareastmedical.net"

STAR MILLS PAMPANGA 2nd Floor

SM MANILA 5TH FLR 484-1471

FAR EAST MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

SM MEGAMALL 5th Flr., Bldg. A 635-04-36

SM FAIRVIEW Basement 418-75-40

SM NORTH EDSA Car Park Plaza 453-3326

SM SOUTHMALL Basement 800-40 93

ROBINSONS GALLERIA Basement 635-5061

CEBU 262-32-39

Environment protection bonuses offered

By Gerald G. Lacuarta

POLLUTION prevention and cleaner production programs are now as good for businesses implementing them as they are for the atmosphere.

Industries that conform to environment protection measures can look forward to such incentives from the government as loans and tax holidays.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources has launched an inter-agency collaboration to help these industries further improve their performance.

Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez said his office, through the Environmental Management Bureau, forged a partnership with the Board of Investments and the Bureau of Product Standards to implement the rewards system.

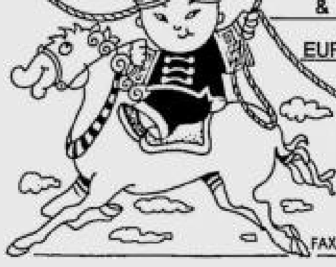
Alvarez said the DENR wished to encourage all firms and industries to aspire for "the ultimate result": certification of exemplary work in environmental preservation, by ISO (International Standardization Organization) 14001 standards.

EMB director Julian Amador said the inter-agency team would be particularly monitoring three aspects of the Environmental Management Systems (EMS) prescribed for each industry: Pollution Prevention (P2), Cleaner Production (CP) programs, and Environmental Cost Accounting.

Small and medium industries (SMEs) could also look forward to technical and technology information assistance from the Department of Science and Technology, Amador said.

He cited the case of Yokohama Tire Philippines in Pampanga. After spending P1 million to implement its EMS and obtain ISO 14001 certification, the company generated P17.175 million in savings and revenues, not to mention an enhanced public image and competitive business advantage.

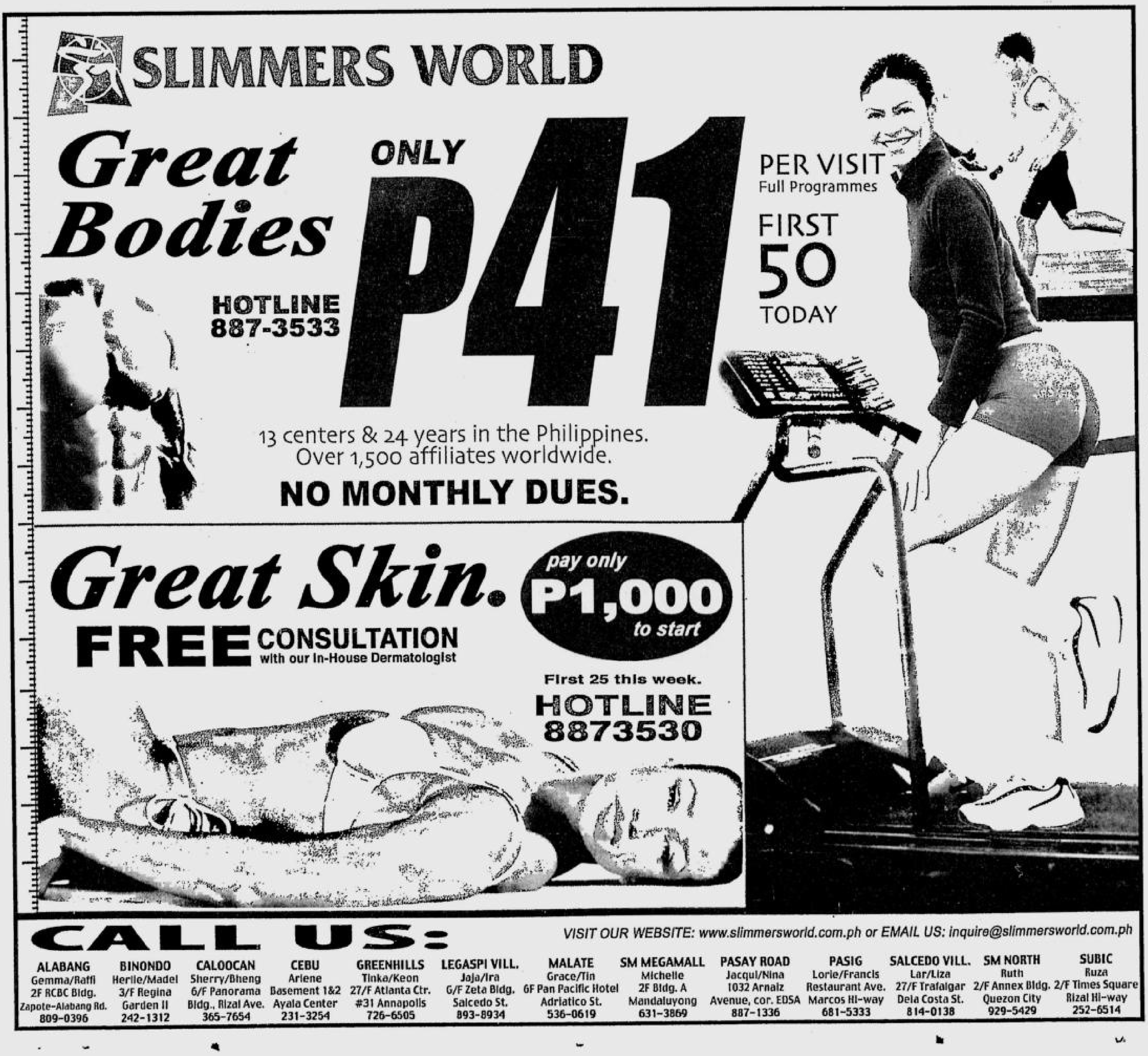
Alvarez said the DENR initiated the inter-agency collaboration "to help improve the standing of Philippine business organizations in the world community and, more important, to encourage local industries to protect the environment."



EXPLORE MACAU HOLIDAYS
5D4N 4D3N TUESDAYS & SATURDAYS DEPARTURE
VIETNAM 8D7N PACKAGE
11 DAYS HUANGSHAN YANGTZE RIVER CRUISE
12 DAYS BEIJING · XIAN · SHANGHAI · HANGZHOU GUILIN · XIAMEN CHINA TOUR ON WEEKLY DEPARTURE
7D6N BANGKOK CHIVASOM PACKAGE
PLEASURE TRIP TO ORLANDO DISNEYLAND · LAS VEGAS · HONGKONG · SINGAPORE · TAIPEI · KOREA · BANGKOK · BALI · AUSTRALIA · NEW ZEALAND & INTERNATIONAL CRUISES
VALUE PACKED EUROPEAN HOLIDAY PACKAGES
LOCAL TOURS AVAILABLE

IATA – PTAA MEMBER
LICENSE : TO 17598

GREAT WALL INT'L TRAVEL INC.
2420725 · 2422526 · 2422221
2422214 · 2422522
FAX: 2422529 · E-MAIL, GREATWALL@ABACUS.COM.PH



SLIMMERS WORLD

Great Bodies

ONLY P41 PER VISIT Full Programmes

FIRST 50 TODAY

HOTLINE 887-3533

13 centers & 24 years in the Philippines.
Over 1,500 affiliates worldwide.

NO MONTHLY DUES.

Great Skin. pay only P1,000 to start

FREE CONSULTATION with our In-House Dermatologist

First 25 this week.

HOTLINE 8873530

CALL US:

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: www.slimmersworld.com.ph or EMAIL US: inquire@slimmersworld.com.ph

ALABANG
Gemma/Raffi
2F RCBC Bldg.
Zapote-Alabang Rd.
809-0396

BINONDO
Herlie/Madel
3/F Regina
Garden II
242-1312

CALOOCAN
Sherry/Bheng
6/F Panorama
Bldg., Rizal Ave.
365-7654

CEBU
Arlene
Basement 1&2
Ayala Center
231-3254

GREENHILLS
Tinka/Keon
27/F Atlanta Ctr.
#31 Annapolis
726-6505

LEGASPI VILL.
Jaja/Ira
G/F Zeta Bldg.
Salcedo St.
893-8934

MALATE
Grace/Tin
6F Pan Pacific Hotel
Adriatico St.
536-0619

SM MEGAMALL
Michelle
2F Bldg. A
Mandaluyong
631-3869

PASAY ROAD
Jacqui/Nina
1032 Arnaiz
Avenue, cor. EDSA
887-1336

PASIG
Lorie/Francis
Restaurant Ave.
Marcos Hi-way
681-5333

SALCEDO VILL.
Lar/Liza
27/F Trafalgar
Dela Costa St.
814-0138

SM NORTH
Ruth
2/F Annex Bldg.
Quezon City
929-5429

SUBIC
Ruza
2/F Times Square
Rizal Hi-way
252-6514

PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

PDIC REGULATORY ISSUANCE NO. 2002-04

TO : ALL MEMBER BANKS

SUBJECT : AMENDMENTS TO PROVISIONS IN PART III (ASSESSMENTS) OF THE PDIC RULES AND REGULATIONS, AS AMENDED

Pursuant to the provisions of R.A. 3591, (PDIC Charter) and PDIC Board Resolution No. 2002-04-055 dated 18 April 2002, the following Regulations are hereby promulgated:

Section 1. *Amendments.*

(a) Section 3.02 of the PDIC Rules and Regulations, as amended, is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Sec. 3.02. Assessment Base –The assessment base shall be the **aggregate of any bank's deposit liabilities in accordance with the** definition of the term "deposit" pursuant to Section 3(f) of RA 3591, as amended, and Section 1.01 (e) of these Rules and Regulations without any deduction for indebtedness of depositors. **Deposit liability accounts, such as, but not limited to the following, shall also form part of the assessment base computation, irrespective of the designation/name assigned to such account:**

1. **Peso "Demand", " Special Savings"**
2. **"NOW" Accounts**
3. **Foreign Currency Demand, Savings and Time**
4. **"Special" Foreign Currency**
5. **"Barrio Savings Fund"**
6. **"Barrio Guarantee Fund"**
7. **"Barrio General Fund"**
8. **Accrued Interest Payable on "Demand"/"NOW"/Savings/"Special Savings" and Time Deposits**
9. **Such other liability accounts of an insured bank which are hereto deemed, solely for purposes of assessments, as deposit liabilities booked under such accounts as, but not limited to, those indicated in page 2 of PDIC Form No. 201-A-1 (Annex 1).**

The semi-annual assessment base for the semi-annual assessment ending June 30 shall be the average of the assessment base of the bank as of theclose of business on September 30 and December 31 and the semi-annual assessment base for the semi-annual assessment ending December 31 shall be the average of the assessment base as of the close of business on March 31 and June 30.

In case a bank which is incorporated under the laws of the Philippines and which maintains a branch outside the Philippines elects to include for insurance its deposit obligations payable only at such branch, it shall include such deposit obligations as part of the 'deposits' subject to assessment.

Deposits maintained in foreign currencies in an insured bank shall form part of the total deposit obligations of said bank. **Foreign currency denominated deposits shall be converted to pesos using the rate reported in the Reference Exchange Rate Bulletin issued by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas on the banking day immediately following the base day/s or closing rate as of the base day/s."**

(b) Sec. 3.08, ibid., is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Sec. 3.08. Filing of Certified Statements - The Certified Statements required to be filed by insured banks in accordance with Section 6(b) of R.A. 3591, as amended, shall be filed with PDIC upon the forms, and in the manner prescribed by the Board of Directors of PDIC. The certified statement form shall be reproduced by the banks themselves and filed with PDIC as follows:

a. PDIC Form No. 202 - First Certified Statement- This form shall be accomplished by the newly opened, reopened or rehabilitated bank and filed with PDIC upon the expiration of the first semi-annual period in which it becomes an insured bank. This form shows the deposit liabilities for only one base day, either June 30 or December 31, whichever date is applicable. When any of said base days is a holiday or non-business day, the preceding business day shall be used. The form also shows the computation of the assessment base and the amount of the assessment due to PDIC. It must be signed under oath by an authorized officer of the bank, two copies, one of which is the original copy, forwarded to PDIC on or before July 31 or January 31, as the case may be, and a copy or copies retained in the bank's files."

b. PDIC Form No. 201 - Regular Certified Statement - This form shall be accomplished and filed with PDIC on or before January 31 and July 31 of each year by every insured bank, except newly insured banks which must submit their First Certified Statement on PDIC Form No. 202. PDIC Form No. 201 shows the deposit liabilities for the two base days in each semi-annual period. The base days are March 31 and June 30 for the six (6) month period ending June 30, and September 30 and December 31 for the six (6) month period ending December 31. When any of said base days is a non- business day or a holiday, the preceding business day shall be used. The form shows the computation of the assessment base and the amount of the assessment due to the PDIC. It must be signedunder oath by an authorized officer of the bank, the original and a copy forwarded to PDIC, and a copy or copies retained in the bank's files."

Simultaneous with the filing of the certified statements, banks shall also be required to submit the following documents necessary to support such filing and the assessment paid to the Corporation:

1. **PDIC Assessment Form No. 201-A-1-Consolidated Schedule of Deposits and Other Related Accounts (pages 1 and 2); Annex 1**
2. **PDIC Assessment Form No. 201-A-1.1 – Consolidated Schedule of Foreign Currency Deposits. Annex 2**
3. **PDIC Assessment Form No. 10 - Breakdown of Accrued Taxes and Other Expenses (BATOE); Annex 3.**

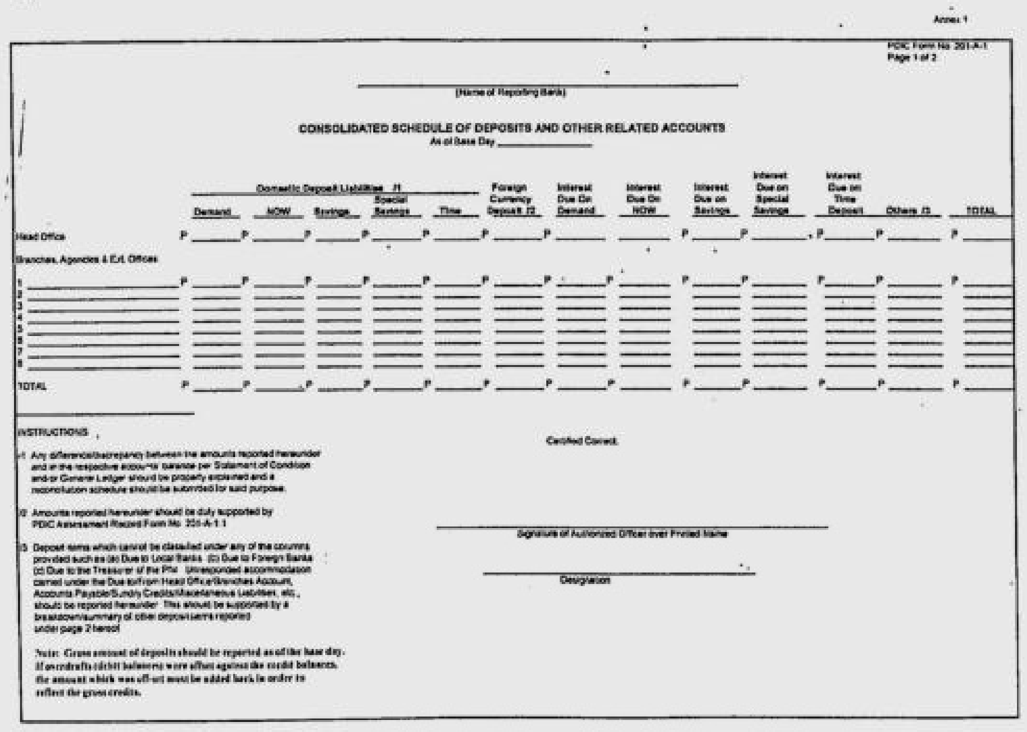
Section 2. *Repealing Clause.* The provisions of PDIC Rules and Regulations, as amended, and all other related rules and regulations which are inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

Section 3. *Effectivity.* These Regulations shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication in a newspaper of general circulation.

For guidance and strict compliance.

ROSALINDA U. GASIGURAN
Officer-in-Charge

06 May 2002



Annex 1

PDIC Form No 201-A-1
Page 1 of 2

(Name of Reporting Bank)

CONSOLIDATED SCHEDULE OF DEPOSITS AND OTHER RELATED ACCOUNTS
As of Base Day ____________

	Domestic Deposit Liabilities /1					Foreign Currency Deposit /2	Interest Due On Demand	Interest Due On NOW	Interest Due on Savings	Interest Due on Special Savings	Interest Due on Time Deposit	Others /3	TOTAL
	Demand	NOW	Savings	Special Savings	Time								
Head Office													
Branches, Agencies & Ext. Offices													
1													
2													
3													
4													
5													
6													
7													
8													
TOTAL													

INSTRUCTIONS

/1 Any difference/discrepancy between the amounts reported hereunder and in the respective accounts balance per Statement of Condition and/or General Ledger should be properly explained and a reconciliation schedule should be submitted for said purpose.

/2 Amounts reported hereunder should be duly supported by PDIC Assessment Record Form No. 201-A-1.1

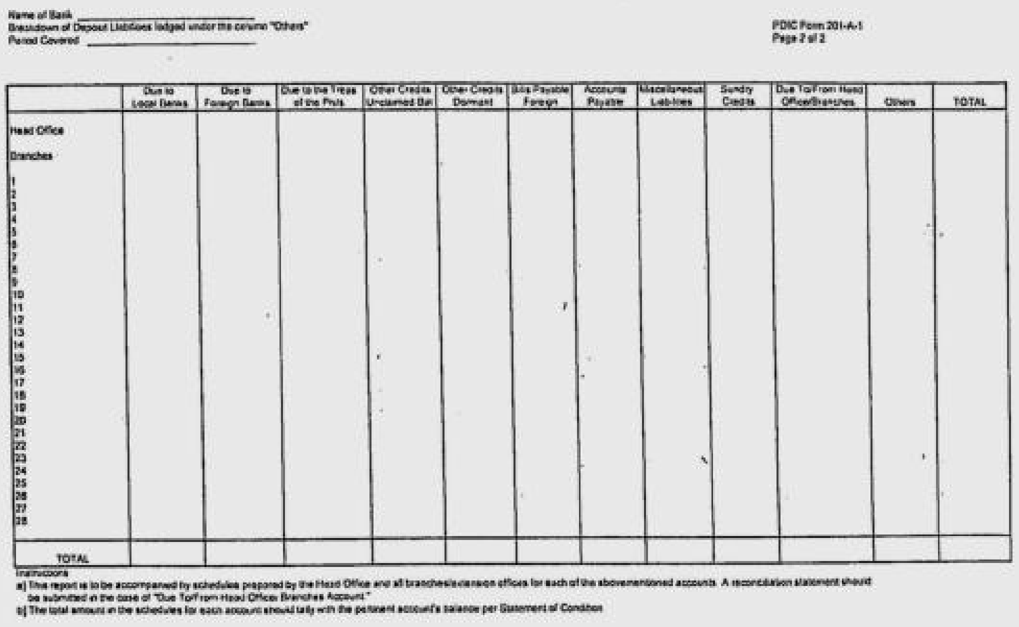
/3 Deposit items which cannot be classified under any of the columns provided such as (a) Due to Local Banks (b) Due to Foreign Banks (c) Due to the Treasurer of the Phil. Unresponded accommodation carried under the Due to/from Head Office/Branches Account, Accounts Payable/Sundry Credits/Miscellaneous Liabilities, etc., should be reported hereunder. This should be supported by a breakdown/summary of other deposit items reported under page 2 hereof

Note: Gross amount of deposits should be reported as of the base day. If overdrafts (debit balances) were offset against the credit balances, the amount which was off-set must be added back in order to reflect the gross credits.

Certified Correct.

Signature of Authorized Officer over Printed Name

Designation

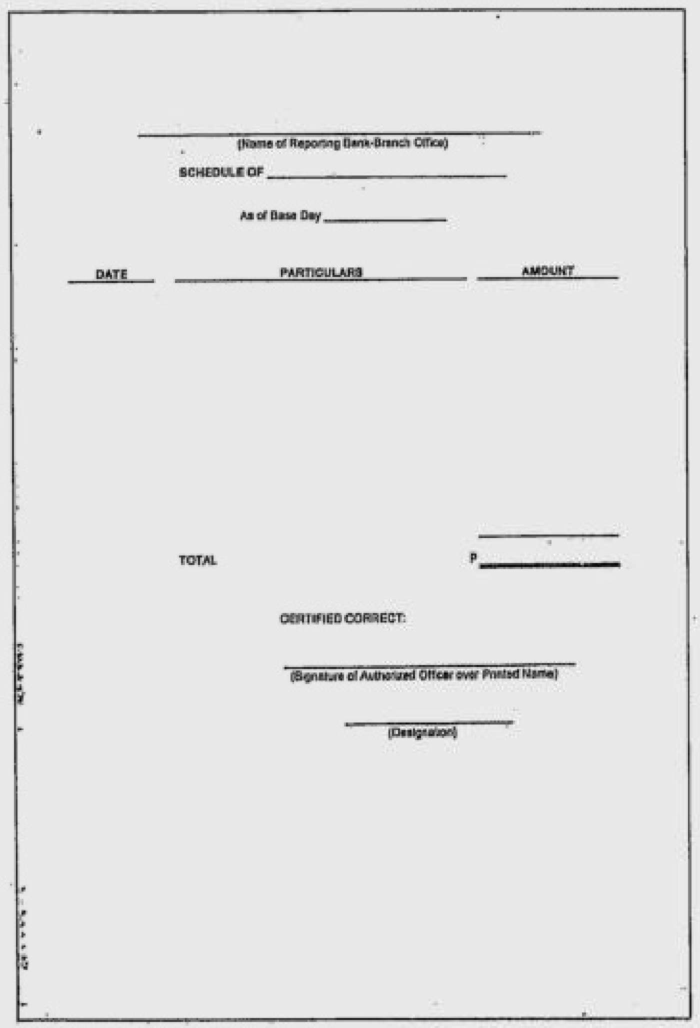


Name of Bank ____________
Breakdown of Deposit Liabilities lodged under the column "Others"
Period Covered ____________

PDIC Form 201-A-1
Page 2 of 2

	Due to Local Banks	Due to Foreign Banks	Due to the Treas of the Phils.	Other Credits Unclaimed Bal	Other Credits Dormant	Bills Payable Foreign	Accounts Payable	Miscellaneous Liabilities	Sundry Credits	Due To/From Head Office/Branches	Others	TOTAL
Head Office												
Branches												
1												
2												
3												
4												
5												
6												
7												
8												
9												
10												
11												
12												
13												
14												
15												
16												
17												
18												
19												
20												
21												
22												
23												
24												
25												
26												
27												
28												
TOTAL												

Instructions
a] This report is to be accompanied by schedules prepared by the Head Office and all branches/extension offices for each of the abovementioned accounts. A reconciliation statement should be submitted in the case of "Due To/From Head Office/Branches Account."
b] The total amount in the schedules for each account should tally with the pertinent account's balance per Statement of Condition



(Name of Reporting Bank-Branch Office)

SCHEDULE OF ____________

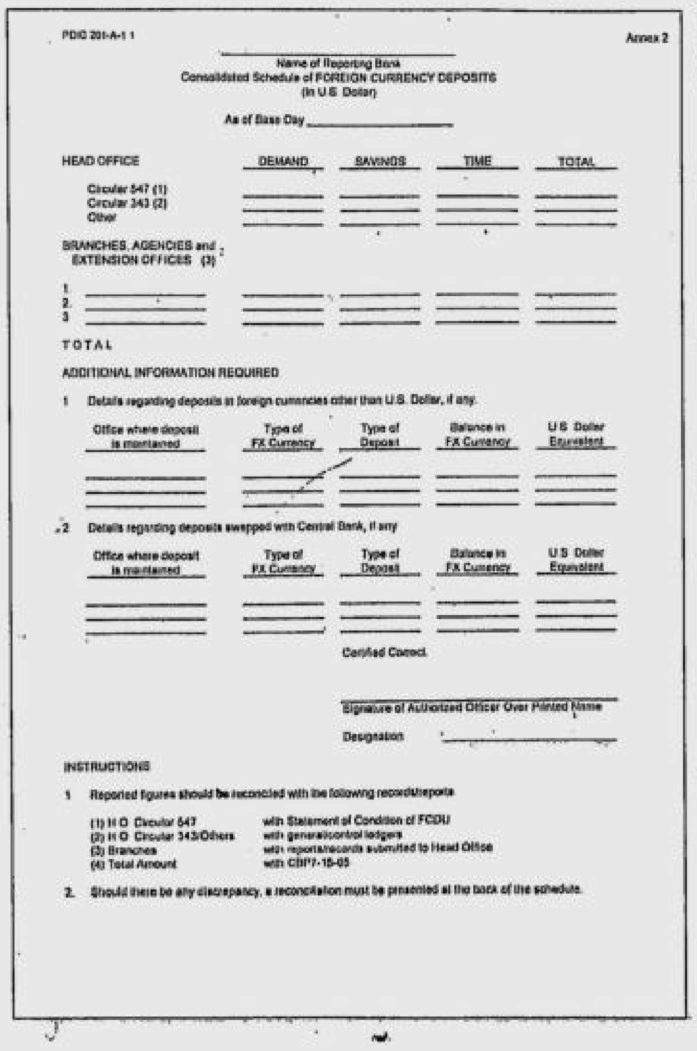
As of Base Day ____________

DATE	PARTICULARS	AMOUNT
	TOTAL	P

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

(Signature of Authorized Officer over Printed Name)

(Designation)



PDIC 201-A-1.1

Annex 2

Name of Reporting Bank
Consolidated Schedule of FOREIGN CURRENCY DEPOSITS
(In U.S. Dollar)

As of Base Day ____________

HEAD OFFICE	DEMAND	SAVINGS	TIME	TOTAL
Circular 547 (1)				
Circular 343 (2)				
Other				
BRANCHES, AGENCIES and EXTENSION OFFICES (3)				
1				
2.				
3				
TOTAL				

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REQUIRED

1 Details regarding deposits in foreign currencies other than U.S. Dollar, if any.

Office where deposit is maintained	Type of FX Currency	Type of Deposit	Balance in FX Currency	U.S. Dollar Equivalent

2 Details regarding deposits swapped with Central Bank, if any

Office where deposit is maintained	Type of FX Currency	Type of Deposit	Balance in FX Currency	U.S. Dollar Equivalent

Certified Correct.

Signature of Authorized Officer Over Printed Name

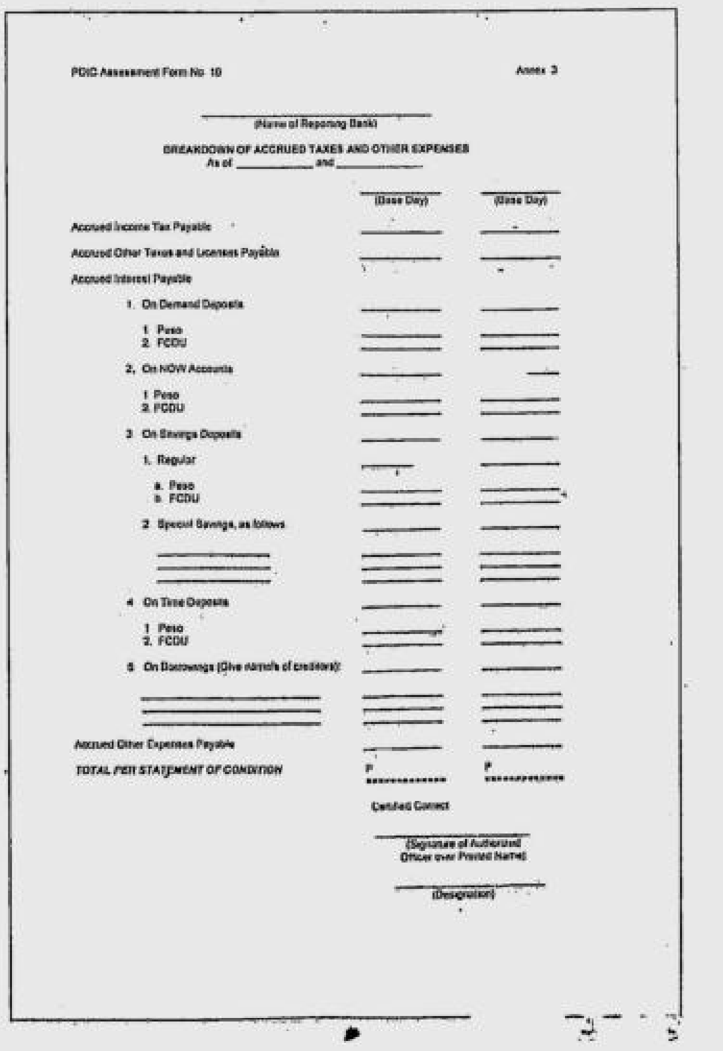
Designation ____________

INSTRUCTIONS

1 Reported figures should be reconciled with the following records/reports

(1) H.O. Circular 547	with Statement of Condition of FCDU
(2) H.O. Circular 343/Others	with general/control ledgers
(3) Branches	with reports/records submitted to Head Office
(4) Total Amount	with CBP7-15-05

2. Should there be any discrepancy, a reconciliation must be presented at the back of the schedule.



PDIC Assessment Form No. 10

Annex 3

(Name of Reporting Bank)

BREAKDOWN OF ACCRUED TAXES AND OTHER EXPENSES
As of ____________ and ____________

	(Base Day)	(Base Day)
Accrued Income Tax Payable		
Accrued Other Taxes and Licenses Payable		
Accrued Interest Payable		
1. On Demand Deposits		
1 Peso		
2 FCDU		
2. On NOW Accounts		
1 Peso		
2 FCDU		
3 On Savings Deposits		
1. Regular		
a. Peso		
b. FCDU		
2 Special Savings, as follows		
4 On Time Deposits		
1 Peso		
2. FCDU		
5 On Borrowings (Give name/s of creditors)		
Accrued Other Expenses Payable		
TOTAL PER STATEMENT OF CONDITION	P	P

Certified Correct

(Signature of Authorized Officer over Printed Name)

(Designation)

Bobi's quantum leap in fellowship

From page A1

TIGLAO

Japan to developing a Christian democratic ideology that will guide her administration.

The President said Tiglao's research at the Kyoto University was very timely in view of her assumption last Saturday of the chairmanship of the ruling party, the Lakas-National Union of Christian Democrats-United Muslim Democrats of the Philippines.

"Bobi Tiglao is in Japan for a research fellowship on the Christian democratic ideology, the basic philosophy of Lakas, and how to translate it into a ground ideology for my administration," she said yesterday.

Tiglao is also the incoming chief of staff of the President. She had earlier named him press secretary, but he took up the fellowship in Japan even before he could warm his seat.

The surprising move strengthened the scuttlebutt that he was at loggerheads with Dante Ang, his boss' personal publicist.

Tiglao is due in the country this month for a vacation and is expected to complete his fellowship in October.

Ms Macapagal earlier said she and Tiglao "metamorphosed" together in terms of political leanings during the Marcos dictatorship.

Essentially anti-communist in orientation, Christian democracy emanated from Europe. Its declared core values are, among others, human rights and social equity.

The Lakas-NUCD-UMDP is affiliated with the Brussels-based Christian Democrat International.

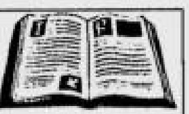
New name

The President said she wanted a working ideology in order to make Lakas a "genuine political party."

But she said she wanted to rename the party as well: "It shouldn't be Lakas-NUCD-UMDP anymore. Its new name should be Lakas ng Christian Democracy at Muslim Democracy."

Ms Macapagal also said it was time to cast aside what she described as the "old politics of patronage and personality" and to embrace "new politics"—the "politics of party platforms and institutional consultation with the people."

THE DAILY GOSPEL



Tuesday, June 4, 2002
9th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading:	**2 P 3:12-15, 17-18**
Gospel:	**Mk 12:13-17**

Jewish leaders sent to Jesus some Pharisees with members of Herod's party, with the purpose of trapping him in his own words. They came and said to Jesus, "Master, we know that you are true; you are not influenced by anyone, and your answers do not vary according to who is listening to you but you truly teach God's way. Tell us, is it against the Law to pay taxes to Caesar? Should we pay them or not?"

But Jesus saw through their trick and answered, "Why are you testing me? Bring me a silver coin and let me see it." They brought him one and Jesus asked, "Whose head is this, and whose name?" They answered, "Caesar's." Then Jesus said, "Return to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's."

And they were greatly astonished.

Commentary

"Give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God." It is a call to responsibility and common sense for the Pharisees and members of Herod's party who were trying to test Jesus. It is for us, too. To look at what we have in hand and to risk our own conclusions is a good method to grow and to mature. Jesus went up to Jerusalem not to grasp political power; he was not a demagogue who manipulates people. With this answer "give to Caesar what belongs to him, to God . . ." Jesus separates religion and politics in cultures—Jewish and Roman alike—where politics always looked for religious justification. From now on, religion should not be manipulated for political purposes, nor should religion confuse its political opponents with the enemies of the Kingdom.

Claretian Publications Inc., 8 Mayumi St., UP Village, Diliman, Quezon City, UP P.O. Box 4, Diliman, 1101 Quezon City; Tel.: 921-3984; Fax: 921-7429; E-mail: claret@cn1.net; Websites: http://www.bible.claret.org (Claretian Publications Inc.) & http://missionaries.claret.org (Claretians in the Philippines)

TILES & FINISHING MATERIALS AT THE BEST PRICES
CERAMIC PLAZA
SALE

Vinyl Tiles P8.95 Only BEFORE P10.20
AMERILOCK Doorknob P99.50 Only BEFORE P150.00
Toolbox P235.00 Only BEFORE P325.00
VENEZIA Imported Bathroom Accessory Set P719.95 Only BEFORE P1,348.50
EUROTILES Tile Adhesive P225.00 Only BEFORE P250.00
PRESTIGE PVC Door P995.00 Only BEFORE P1,345.00
EUROTILES Tile Grout P39.95 Only BEFORE P52.00 White & Beige
Imported Floor Tiles 20cm x 20cm P7.25 Only BEFORE P13.30
ROYAL TERN Bathroom Package P2,400.00 Only BEFORE P3,100.00

STYLENUL IMPORTED SPANISH TILES
13" x 13" Floor Tiles P37.50 Only BEFORE P50.00
16" x 16" Floor Tiles P52.90 Only BEFORE P80.00
8" x 12" Wall Tiles P21.00 Only BEFORE P28.00

METRO MANILA BRANCHES
MANILA 1602 J. Abad Santos Ave (Near Dynasty Tower) 263-2637 • 263-6090
QUEZON AVENUE 27 29 [illegible] Bldg (Near D. Tuason St.) 731-1300
PASAY 811 EDSA 833 5510 834-7537
SUCAT 8206 Dr. A Santos Ave. 829 5417
MUNTINLUPA Christ The King Bldg. Tunasan, Muntinlupa 861-1775
VALENZUELA Unit 7 #313 McArthur Hi-way Karuhatan (Near SMC Warehouse), 291 5271
ANTIPOLO J & F Bldg., Masinag Marcos Highway, Rizal 678-0032

PROVINCIAL BRANCHES
DASMARIÑAS, CAVITE Km. 17 Aguinaldo Hi-way, Dasmariñas, Cavite (046)416-3343
CARMONA Bo. Maduya, National Highway, Carmona, Cavite (046)430-3227
MEYCAUAYAN JP Harmon Bldg., McArthur Hi-way, Bo. Banga (044)840-0348
BALIUAG DRT Hi-way, (044)673 3595 (044)673 0445
GUIGUINTO Unit CDF Cundangan Bldg., Tuktukan (044)690-0608
ANGELES Sta. Ester Bldg. 033 Henson St. (045)887-4011
TARLAC San Sebastian, McArthur Hi-way (045)860-0212

EXTENDED STORE HOURS! 8:30 AM TO 7:30 PM DAILY
ALMANZA, LAS PIÑAS (In front of SM Southmall) Lot 7, Alabang-Zapote Rd., Bgy. Almanza, Las Piñas City Tels. 801-7152 • 800-7131 800-7132 • 800-7134
E. RODRIGUEZ 113 E. Rodriguez Avenue (Near G. Araneta Ave.) Quezon City Tel. 732-1906
MUÑOZ 1207 EDSA, Q.C. Tels. 372-4687 372-1593 • 372-9010 • 372-9011

CERAMIC PLAZA at Federal HARDWARE BUILDER'S CENTER *OPEN 8:30AM TO 7:30PM DAILY
*FEDERAL HARDWARE-MAKATI 2750 Chino Roces Avenue (Pasong Tamo), Makati City Tels. 893 1054 • 893 1090
FEDERAL HARDWARE-BACOOR, CAVITE Tropical Hut Bldg., Bacoor, Cavite Tel. (046) 970-2598
FEDERAL HARDWARE-IMUS, CAVITE 379 NR Aguinaldo Highway (Near Robinsons), Anabu I-C Imus, Cavite Tel. (046) 875-4840
*FEDERAL HARDWARE-CAINTA No. 9 Imelda Ave (Near MAKRO), Cainta, Rizal • Tel. 678-1638
*FEDERAL HARDWARE-TAYTAY Manila East Road Kaysipling, Taytay, Rizal Tels. 284-2206 • 665-3442
FEDERAL HARDWARE-ANGELES 509 McArthur Highway, Sto. Domingo, Angeles City Tel. (045) 888-4186

NOW OPEN: FEDERAL HARDWARE CALAMBA at Liana's Discount Center, Parian, Calamba, Laguna (049) 545-9744

Apply for a BPI Credit Card now and

your signature could be worth

P100,000

You've always wanted a BPI Credit Card and now is the best time to get one.

Aside from the regular credit line, get an S.I.P. (Special Installment Plan),

and a chance to win P100,000 every week.

How to win P100,000 :

1. Apply now for a BPI Credit Card.
2. To qualify for the raffle promo, your application must be submitted and approved within the promo period. Credit Card account must be active, not suspended or cancelled during the promo period.
3. Promo period is from May 15 to June 25, 2002.
4. Approved applications will be automatically assigned one computer generated raffle number.
5. There will be one prize - P100,000.00 - drawn every week for six weeks. Raffle draws will be held on (all in the year 2002) :
   - June 21, 28
   - July 5, 12, 19, 26
6. The P100,000.00 prize will be credited to your BPI Credit Card account and will be reflected in your succeeding statement of account.
7. A cardholder can only win once within the promo period. Non-winning entries per draw are still qualified for the succeeding draws. Winners will be notified via registered mail.
8. All prizes are tax-free.
9. All officers and employees of BPI, Corp. Guaranteed card applicants, BPI's advertising agencies and their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining the raffle.
10. In case of dispute, the decision of BPI Card with the concurrence of DTI shall be considered final.

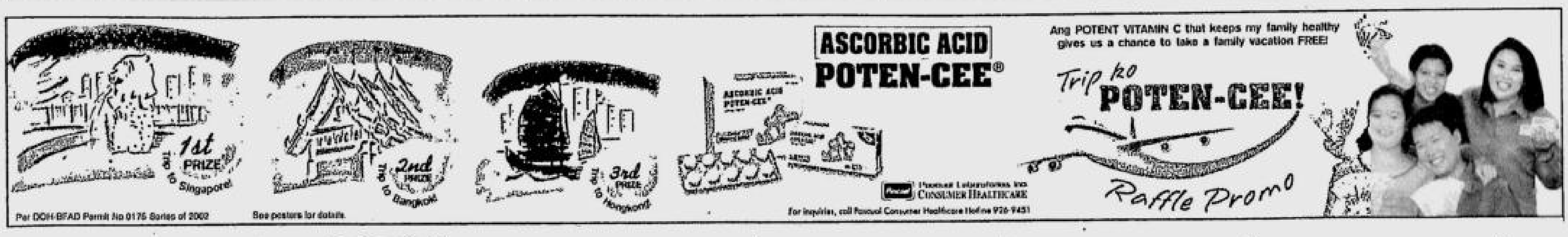
Per DTI - NCR Permit No. 1927 Series of 2002.

BPI Express Credit Card
The most sensible card to carry around with a low monthly finance charge, no surcharges on appliance purchases and other great deals. Plus, it's the only credit card accepted in Makro.

Petron-BPI MasterCard
The only full service motorist card that gives you 2% fuel rebates, free 24-hour towing and roadside assistance and discounts on Petron lubes and services.

BPI MasterCard
The credit card you can use here and abroad that comes with a free **E-Credit Card**, the only limited risk web-shopping card.

Apply for a BPI Credit Card now! Visit the nearest BPI or BPI Family Bank branch or www.bpiexpressonline.com. BPI and BPI Family Bank Metro Manila depositors can call 89-100 to apply.



1st PRIZE Trip to Singapore!
2nd PRIZE Trip to Bangkok!
3rd PRIZE Trip to Hongkong!

ASCORBIC ACID POTEN-CEE®

Ang POTENT VITAMIN C that keeps my family healthy gives us a chance to take a family vacation FREE!

Trip ko POTEN-CEE! Raffle Promo

Pascual Laboratories, Inc. CONSUMER HEALTHCARE

For inquiries, call Pascual Consumer Healthcare Hotline 926-9451

Per DOH-BFAD Permit No 0176 Series of 2002

See posters for details.

EUGENIA D. APOSTOL
Founding Chairman

INQUIRER

Vol. 16 No. 176
ISSN 0116-2642

OPINION

e-mail: feedback@inquirer.com.ph **website:** http://www.inq7.net

The PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, INC. has its business and editorial offices at
▪ Chino Roces Ave. corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City
▪ P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City
▪ Our telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments
▪ Editorial Fax 897-4793 / 897-4794 ▪ Advertising 897-4807
▪ Circulation 527-3342 / 527-3348 / 528-0183 / 528-0186 and 528-0213 / Fax: 528-02-34.

Publisher **ISAGANI YAMBOT**
Editor in Chief **LETTY JIMENEZ-MAGSANOC**
Managing Editor **JOSE MA. D. NOLASCO**
Associate Editor **ABELARDO S. ULANDAY**
News Editor **ARTEMIO T. ENGRACIA JR.**
Opinion Editor **JORGE V. ARUTA**
Assistant News Editor **NILO B. PAUROM**
National Editor **PERGENTINO B. BANDAYREL JR.**
City Editor **GERRY LIRIO**
Senior Deskperson **ROSARIO A. GARCELLANO**
Editorial Consultant **AMANDO DORONILA**
Chief Photographer **ERNIE U. SARMIENTO**
Art & Design Director **LYNETT A. VILLARIBA**

Board Chairman **MARIXI R. PRIETO**
President **ALEXANDRA PRIETO-ROMUALDEZ**
Senior Vice President for Sales and Marketing **RENATO R. REINOSO**
Senior Vice President for Corporate Services **DAVID O. VALDES**
VP for Advertising **FELIPE R. OLARTE**
AVP for Circulation **GLORIA P. LARDIZABAL**

All rights reserved. Subject to the conditions provided for by law, no article or photograph published by the Philippine Daily Inquirer may be reprinted or reproduced, in whole or in part, without its prior consent.

Sport of the masses

EDITORIAL

IN THE NEXT four weeks, more than 140 nations and hundreds of millions of people will be caught up in the World Cup fever. The teams of only 32 nations will be playing in the first round but other nations will be rooting for their favorites which they will adopt as their own.

Next only to the Olympics, the World Cup is the most popular sporting show on earth. It excites the blood and stirs up the emotions of hundreds of millions of people. Basketball-crazy Philippines is one of the few exceptions. Here, only the expats and some Filipinos who really love the game will be watching the World Cup on TV.

Soccer is the most popular sport in the world. It is played in more than 140 countries, with close to 18 million players participating. Huge soccer stadiums such as the Maracana Stadium in Brazil, which has a capacity of 200,000, are built to accommodate the many spectators who watch, live and breathe soccer.

Soccer has also been called the sport of the masses. Why? Because of its utter simplicity. Two teams have to have only a football, an empty lot and pieces of wood which they can make into a goal, and they're set to play the game. The aim of the game is simple: to put the ball past the goal.

Soccer is also popular because basically, people like to kick things (and persons) around, including politicians who have lost popular favor.

The earliest mention researchers have found of a game resembling soccer says that in China 2,500 years ago, balls were kicked through a gap in a net stretched between poles 30 feet high. In the Pacific Islands, natives used coconuts and pig bladders as balls. Native Americans played a game called "pasuckuakohowog" (trust them to use unpronounceable words to name things). The word means "they gather to play ball with the foot."

In England, one story says that a team used the head of a dead enemy as the ball. Another story tells of a village defeating a Roman team and running them out of town in 217 AD.

By the 12th century, the game had become a violent mob sport that had no rules and that condoned any sort of behavior. (Today's British hooligans must have been descended from the early players of the game.) It drew a succession of royal bans, until finally King Edward III prohibited it in 1365 because of its excessive violence.

Despite King Edward's prohibition, soccer continued to be played because it had become too popular to be curtailed.

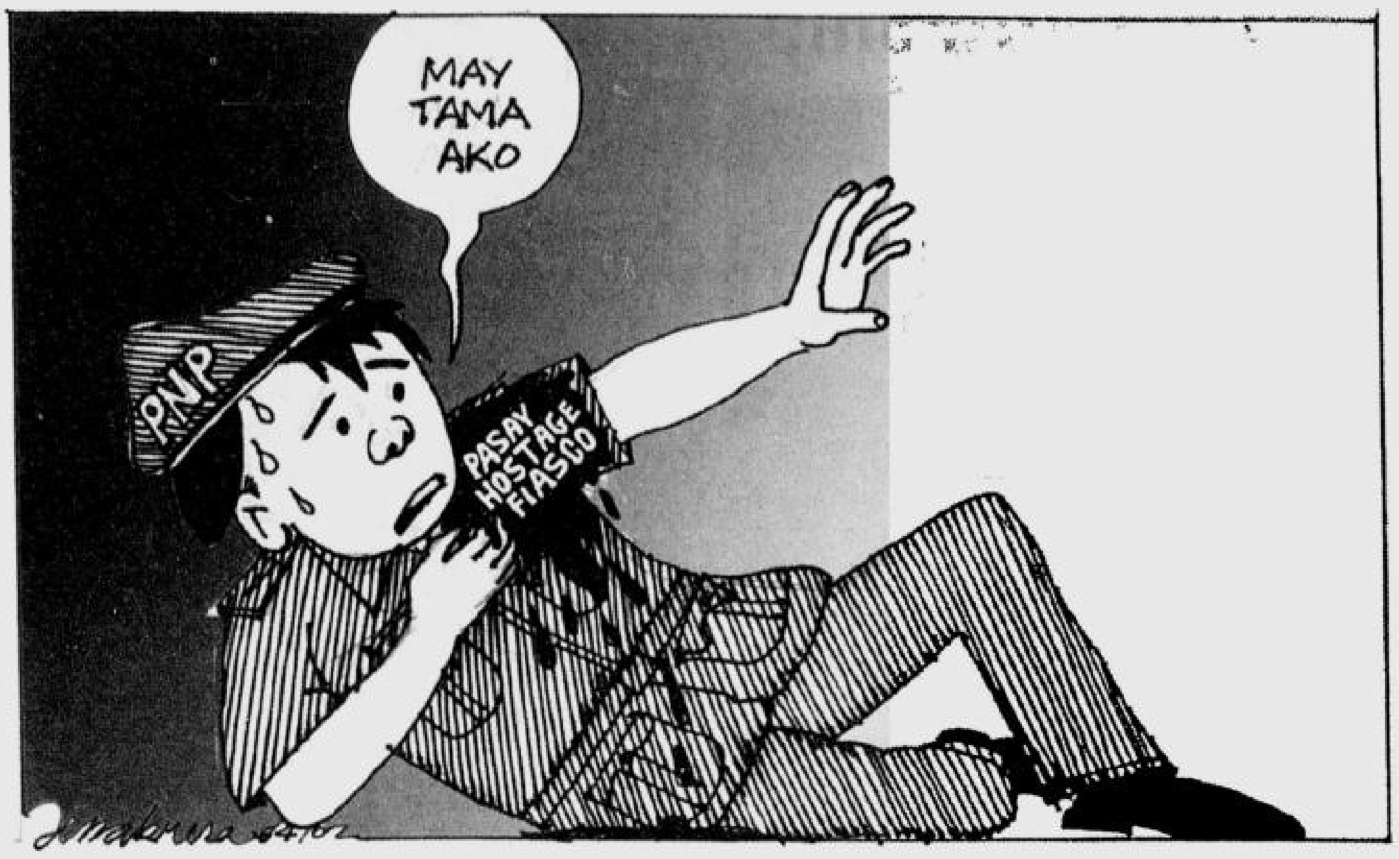
Modern soccer's most historic date is Oct. 26, 1963 when 11 clubs met in London to form the Football Association that laid the foundation for about 140 modern national associations. The game's official name is "association football"; the word "soccer" comes from the abbreviation "assoc."

Brilliant soccer players have built international reputations and small fortunes because of their proficiency in the game. The best known among them is the Brazilian player Pelé (born Edson Arantes do Nascimento). This inside-forward, considered the world's greatest soccer player, led Brazil to several World Cup championships. He developed a skilful technique for advancing the ball from foot to foot, breaking through the tightest defenses. He also plotted complicated scoring plays to meet any defense. Pelé, who scored more than 1,000 goals during his career, is believed to have been the world's highest paid player of his time.

Soccer is watched and played with a special urgency and passion. National teams play as if their very lives depend on their winning. Victory—or defeat—is a matter of national pride or shame. Sometimes the passion is transformed into violence as fans vent their anger over a lost game on rival fans, on players and even on game officials.

Soccer has been called the lingua franca of the world; it does not need words to be understood by anybody. Malcolm Beith in Newsweek recounts the story on Christmas Day 1914 when a group of British and Allied soldiers and the opposing German battalion laid down their arms and played "one of the most famous football matches in history." Germany won, 3-2, and the next day, hostilities resumed. But for one day, football and peace became synonymous. Properly developed, soccer may yet become a tool for promoting world peace.

Now the eyes of the world are on Japan and South Korea where the World Cup games are being played. The Asian World Cup may yet mark the start of a move to popularize the sport in Asia. We hope also that soccer will draw more fans in the Philippines. There's a whole world out there, outside of basketball, you know.



The mystery behind the firms with the Ifmas

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

REACTING to this column last May 29 in which I urged the Commission on Appointments to confirm the appointment of Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez if he can cleanse the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Rep. Prospero Pichay asked that I listen to his reasons for asking that Alvarez not be confirmed. In fairness to him and other opposed to Alvarez, I did. He also gave me a copy of his speech before the commission last May 28, upon which this column is based.

Pichay's opposition and those of 23 other congressmen from Mindanao stem from "the questionable behavior of Alvarez in a series of transactions to give five foreign corporations control over a major portion of the forestry resources of the Caraga region."

Pichay said Alvarez committed clear violations of the Constitution and of several key DENR regulations, "all for the benefit of the five companies of questionable ownership. Not only are these firms terribly undercapitalized, they are also being foisted on us as majority-owned by Filipinos with neither the financial resources nor the technical capability to undertake a project of such huge magnitude."

He said these Filipinos are "almost certain" to be mere dummies of their foreign partners, for the five firms share a common ownership, "as the same names keep appearing in all the articles of incorporation."

Pichay was referring to Shannalyne Inc. and Tecland Inc. two firms with common shareholders that first signed contracts for four integrated forestry management agreements (Ifmas) in June 1998 with then Environment Secretary Victor Ramos, with a total area of 61,334 hectares.

Last year, on May 18, or barely three years later, five companies under the Shannalyne group signed with Alvarez five Ifmas with a total area of 127,468 hectares, bringing the total area under Shannalyne to 188,802 hectares. Joining Tecland under the Shannalyne group were Goldenbell Hills Inc., Tansland Inc. and Caraga Forest Inc.

"It is quite an achievement for these companies to amass tenurial rights to 188,802 hectares of forestland in just three and a half years, especially if we consider that Caraga Forest, Goldenbell, Tansland and Tecland have a paid-up capital of only P68,000 each, and Shannalyne just P400,000," Pichay said.

He added that the paid-up capital is even less than the required payments under DAO 99-53, namely 50 centavos per hectare and a survey fee of P50 per hectare, plus the transportation expenses of the survey team to the site.

For the area under the four Ifmas signed in 1998, the cash requirements for the survey fees alone will amount to more than P1.9 million for Shannalyne and more than P1.1 million for Tecland, or several times their paid-up capital, Pichay said. For the Ifmas signed by Alvarez in May 2001, the cash requirement is more than P1.76 million for Goldenbell, P653,470 for Tecland, P1.9 million for Caraga Forest and P1.76 million for Tansland, "or up to three times more than the companies' authorized capital."

DAO 99-53 clearly states that Ifma applicants should show proof of financial capability. What kind of proof did these Shannalyne companies show to the DENR and Alvarez? Pichay asked.

For each of the four smaller companies, records show that the foreign shareholders contributed P50,000 of the paid-up capital of P68,000. For Shannalyne, the whole paid-up capital came from the foreigners.

But the Constitution provides that "the development or use of forestlands and/or forest resources is limited to Filipino citizens or corporations, or associations, whose capital is at least 60 percent owned by Filipinos."

Yet in each of the four smaller companies, according to the records, 70 percent of the capital was contributed by foreigners. For the main company, SEC records show that only the foreign shareholders contributed paid-up capital.

As to the Filipino shareholders, their identities remain a mystery. Pichay said a check with forestry professionals and industry players does not give any clue as to who the shareholders are. But DAO 99-53 requires that applicants be equipped "with track records in forest development and management to be eligible for DENR tenurial instruments."

These Filipino shareholders, listed as "M.T. David, A.D. Carlos and A.C. Benedicto," were identified only by their passport numbers, Pichay said. "Ms David and Ms Carlos are also the shareholders in Caraga Forest and Ms Benedicto is also in Tansland and Tecland."

Passports were also used to identify in the notarial acknowledgement "Ms Ailene Cristobal, Ms Luz Gomez Naguit and Ms Mary Jane Ibay. Ms Cristobal and Ms Ibay are in Shannalyne, Tansland and Tecland and Ms Naguit is an investor in Shannalyne.

And who are the foreign shareholders? "Almost all of them share common addresses," said Pichay. "For instance, the incorporation papers list four with the surname Tan. Three—Jean Tan. Cheow Teck Tan, and Alyne Chee Tan-Ann—used the same address at 31 Trevost Crescent, Singapore.

"Jean Tan and Jean E.M. LaBrooy even have the same Singaporean passport number issued in April 1996. Curiously, Jean Tan is treasurer of Caraga Forest, Goldenbell Hills and Shannalyne, Jean E.M. LaBrooy is treasurer of Tecland, while Alyne Chee Tian-Ann is treasurer of Tansland."

Very interesting, it reads like a detective novel. We would like to know the answers and the Commission on Appointments should solve the mystery.

Letters

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

MY columns on the wisdom of a "Filipino First" policy seem to have sparked some agitation, particularly among Filipinos abroad. The following letters typify the reactions to it. I will put off my comments for tomorrow.

An apologia, however: The last time I put out the reactions of readers to my columns and commented on them, someone wrote to say that for a while there he thought I wasn't one of those columnists who always wanted to have the last word. Turns out, he said, he was wrong. Well, he is wrong about being wrong. I do not want to have the last word on these subjects, they are far too important for anyone to want to do so. I take my readers seriously, particularly where they make thoughtful comments, even if they are contrary to mine, and like engaging them in spirited argument. That is what it is, a spirited argument, not a shouting match. I have no problems changing my views (and have done so many times) when persuaded to do so by insightful ideas.

From Melissa Atienza-Petri:

"I can understand your point, but I'd like to think I am not showing off when I go home with *pasalubongs* of Rocher and other European products. I bring these to my loved ones because they like to taste them from time to time and I want them to know what my 'daily staple' is. I go home with luggage full of goodies. But when I return to Europe, I also bring a luggage full of Filipino products. In fact, I bring back an extra one. My partner is especially fond of Chocnut, despite having grown up in a land where Belgian chocolates are available in every kiosk. On our trip home, our bags would be full of dried mangoes, century tuna, Chocnut, *cornik*, *chicharon*, etc. And, I think this applies to most *balikbayans*.

"I don't think *balikbayans* or overseas Filipino workers who come home from abroad with bags full of imported goodies have a 'colonial mentality.' You live in Manila and you go on a trip to Los Baños, what do you bring home? You don't go to the nearest Goldilocks to buy cake. You buy *buko* pie or *espasol*."

From Cecil Peralta:

"Your recent columns are encouraging and distressing for a Filipino like me. Encouraging because there are still a few souls who try to promote what is Filipino and distressing because until now we cannot extricate ourselves from what is 'imported.'

"I have not lived in the Philippines for 28 years and have become a citizen of my adopted country not just for the protection it gives but out of the sense of gratitude and obligation I feel I owe it. But I remain a Filipino in many respects.

"When I shop for clothes, I look first for those made in the Philippines because I find them more comfortable and durable. When I shop for running shoes, I always choose those made in the Philippines. When I look for fish sauce, I choose Rufina Patis over those made in Thailand. My recent acquisition, a Pentax camera, was assembled in the Philippines.

"What I cannot understand is why most Filipinos prefer 'imported' items.

"It is almost a generation now since I left the country and still most Filipinos cannot accept the competitiveness of Philippine products. How sad."

From Otelio Garcia:

"The flood of Japanese products 'acceptable' to the Western world began with a couple of cheap but sharp 'Nikkor' lenses in the hands of two prominent American reporters covering the horrors of the Korean War. They fitted the lenses to their Contax and Leica rangefinder cameras and went shooting right away. There was no noticeable difference in feel and quality between the new lenses and their original ones.

"The Nikkors were made by a company named Nippon Kogaku. We know it now as Nikon. Although now the world's premier camera maker, it began as an obscure lensmaker for the Japanese military, particularly for bomber-plane and artillery sights. It is remarkable to think about it now, but in 1949 Nikon was making lenses so excellent they inspired the American photojournalists to compare them favorably with German Zeiss and Leitz (Leica). Some well-heeled German camera owners still consider such comparisons insulting. In the 1950s it was sacrilege.

"But the Japanese had a world-beater, and it was only a matter of time before Canon, Minolta and Pentax, not to mention Honda, Kawasaki, Toyota, Suzuki, Sony and Matsushita Electric, broke the dike.

"The message is clear: if we want to ever get on the same plane as the Japanese, Korean and Malaysians who are now already quite good, we have to have one breakthrough product, right ***now***, one that will get people's attention. And it has to be in the hands of the right people."

From Vic Lumbao:

"I had an interesting conversation with my son and daughter the other day. My kids surprised me because they expressed optimism about the country's capacity to rebound from where it is now. Equally surprising was their love for the Philippines. I suspect that the 'DFA commercial' is doing wonders to Filipinos overseas. At least it does with my children.

"I must mention that in our last visit last month, we bought Filipino products. As a pastor, I regularly call on our people to pray for the Philippines. Nothing brings one's love for country more than praying for it."

* * *

I keep forgetting to say this to readers: I do not open attachments, so please do not send your e-mail that way. I am sorry but I am a little paranoid about viruses. I cannot afford to have my hard disks attacked by them, my livelihood being on the line there. I do not mind long letters that are spread out in several e-mails. But attachments I ignore completely, even from sources I recognize. You never know in these days of digital terrorism. You put your case strongly in columns, you are bound to have your share of detractors. Not all detractors like to express their unhappiness by argument.

* * *

Comments to dequiros@vasia.com

Dexter's death shouldn't be in vain

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

THE NATION mourns the tragic death of 4-year-old Dexter Balala at the hands of a drug-crazed hostage-taker, but perhaps his death would not be in vain if serious police reforms were undertaken. The incredible, botched-up police operation raises a lot of questions that the authorities ought to investigate thoroughly and that those who were responsible for it should be punished. It's auspicious that a new PNP leadership is about to come in, for it may be more dispassionate in undertaking reforms.

* * *

The problems are obvious. For one thing, there seems to be a serious breakdown in discipline, judging from reports that some responding policemen were summoned in the wee hours of the morning from a nightclub on Roxas Boulevard. It the reports are correct, it is understandable why the police couldn't react decisively to a hostage situation involving a solitary assailant armed with a knife who, because of drugs, was not so stable. The responding policemen's senses must have been dulled by the all-night drinking, for how else can one explain how they failed to overpower the hostage-taker? When the cops finally acted, they pumped bullets not only into the hostage-taker but also the boy!

The inability of the policemen to handle the hostage situation correctly becomes inexcusable if the reports are true that they completed an anti-terrorism training course, including hostage-taking management the week before. Their inefficiency extends to their failure to cordon off the media, which ended up interfering with the rescue operations, or so the policemen claimed. But this also tells our media organizations a lot about their people's need to reform their behavior in crisis situations.

* * *

I was at the Quezon City Hall recently and Mayor Feliciano "Sonny" Belmonte proudly showed me its "new look." Gone were the *talipapas* and all the itinerant vendors, and the grounds looked quite neat and orderly. Belmonte took me to the new taxpayers' lounge built in the section that burned down before and it looks like an airport pre-departure area, complete with free coffee for the taxpayers and toilets that look like those in five-star hotels.

"This way our taxpayers would be *ganado* to pay their taxes, for we need them badly," said Belmonte with a grin.

He said his predecessor, Ismael Mathay, left him with direct payable debts of P1.2 billion and debts to banks amounting to P1.5 billion. The first thing Belmonte did so he could pay the debts he inherited from Mathay was to reduce the number of casuals by some 4,000 people.

* * *

But the mayor felt proudest about the garbage problem that his office is now tackling more resolutely, resulting in a cleaner city. Most of the stinking garbage piles of Mathay's time are gone, and what is even better is that the more efficient clean-up saved many millions in taxpayers' money. Belmonte said that while Mathay spent a whopping P372,356,777 for garbage-collection during the first half of 2001, or an average of P62,059,396 a month, in Belmonte's first six months in office, the total expenses for garbage collection went down to P284,422,884, or an average of P47,403,814 million per month. In the first four months of this year, he has kept that monthly average and he promises to trim it further.

* * *

Belmonte's street-cleaning extends beyond garbage to clearing the streets of traffic obstructions. For example, he ordered the removal of the *talipapa* along Commonwealth Avenue beside the Sandiganbayan, that had become an eyesore in the Batasan area. In less than a year, he has shown what a difference political will and clean, honest governance can do.

I hope Belmonte remains that way, for politicians should remember that efficient public service and a proud, honest name are their own reward, and that the people will give honest politicians their due.

* * *

The Garments and Textile Export Board (GTEB) under Felicitas Agoncillo-Reyes is bracing for 2005, when the 1,200 garment firms in the country (currently employing 400,000 workers) will feel the full impact of competing in the world market sans the preferential US quotas that end that year, and the stiff competition from China and other Asian countries. GTEB officials point out the threats from the "China factor," with that country's work efficiency three times higher than the Philippines' and Chinese workers exhibiting a learning curve of 2.5 weeks with 85 percent productivity, compared to the Philippines' six to eight weeks curve with only 65 percent productivity. Even Vietnam is giving us a run for our money, with its exports of $2.5 billion annually in only two years of trading with the United States, compared with the Philippines' $3 billion annually over a span of 50 years.

* * *

Even with the US preferential quota still in place, GTEB officials point out that the country is losing its foothold as a top apparel supplier to the United States. We have slipped from No. 7 in 1995 to No. 11 in quantity and No. 9 in value, edged out by countries like Bangladesh, Indonesia and Honduras which deliver cheaper, faster and a wider range of goods. Hampering our garments producers are our expensive products (owing to higher labor costs), low productivity and limited value-added services.

Fortunately, the GTEB, which was once headed by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, is doing some forward planning and has come up with the Garment Industry Assistance Package of incentives and benefits. Its components include a P300-million development program for productivity enhancement, trade facilitation and market/product development; a P1-billion guarantee fund and special credit facility from the Trade Industry and Development Corp. targeting for assistance mainly the small-medium enterprises; and constant market promotion abroad.

One thing is sure: the garments industry cannot afford to take it easy for the name of the game is competitiveness.

Understanding 'EC'

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

IN THE EARLY 1970s, contraception was still controversial enough to bestow instant glamour and cachet on the few women (and men) who dared try it. I remember a women's magazine running an "investigative" piece on whether a single Filipina could secure a prescription for "the pill" and then buy a packet from the corner drugstore.

Talk was rife in social circles about how "good" Catholic wives would go "shopping" for a liberal father-confessor who would give them permission to use contraception and reassure them they weren't courting eternal damnation. When my mother, for instance, found out I was planning to use contraception after the birth of my son, she nodded in approval of my "practicality," but noted, "of course you realize you can't take Communion while you're on the pill."

But even as contraception has become fairly common—49 percent of Filipino women of reproductive age now say they use some form of it—in person, women and men still can't talk about practicing family planning without feeling at least a trace of shame and embarrassment.

Of course, the absolutist position taken by Church authorities and the holier-than-thou worthies has done little to dispel the stigma surrounding contraception. In a country where so-called pro-lifers can still equate contraception with abortion and not get laughed off the public arena, you can imagine how difficult it would be for women to even contemplate—much less admit to—resorting to emergency contraception.

Emergency contraception has been called "the nation's best-kept secret." And that nation is not even the Philippines but the United States. Though it has been in use for the past 25 years and sanctioned by respected medical and public health authorities including the World Health Organization (WHO), emergency contraception remains little known to those who need it most: women who have had unprotected sex as a result of an accident, deception, coercion or rape and thus risk being saddled with an unwanted pregnancy.

* * *

EMERGENCY contraception, it must be made clear, is not abortion. Abortion is the termination of a viable pregnancy, either as a result of natural causes (spontaneous abortion, also called a miscarriage) or induced by the use of mechanical, physical or chemical means.

Emergency contraception prevents a pregnancy after unprotected intercourse by any of three means: preventing fertilization of an ovum by the sperm, slowing down the movement of the sperm or paralyzing it completely, or causing the sloughing off of the uterine lining and thus preventing implantation of the fertilized ovum.

Crucial to understanding how emergency contraception works is to understand conception as a "process" that starts with unprotected intercourse during a woman's fertile period and the fertilization of the ovum, and is completed with the successful implantation of the fertilized ovum. This is a process that takes place from three to as many as 10 days. This is the "window" of time during which a woman may prevent a possible pregnancy.

* * *

I DARE say the Filipino public would not have known about emergency contraception had not the Bureau of Food and Drugs and the Department of Health delisted Postinor, the brand name of a formulation of levonorgestrel, the prime ingredient used in emergency contraception.

In a backgrounder, Carolina Ruiz-Austria, executive director of WomenLead, a feminist legal organization, says that Postinor was first approved for registration by former Health Secretary Alberto Romualdez who limited its use to government-run Women and Child Protection Units to help victims of rape, sexual abuse and domestic violence.

But last Dec. 7, the DOH banned Postinor "after the BFAD recommended its withdrawal from the list of registered drugs, following the petition filed by AbayFamilya, a local anti-abortion coalition."

Ruiz-Austria says "the main argument raised against Postinor was that it was an abortifacient since it inhibits implantation of a fertilized ovum. The BFAD recommendation cited an interpretation of the constitutional provision protecting the unborn from conception, equating conception with fertilization."

* * *

APART from relying on flawed logic and faulty science, the BFAD and DOH then compounded their mistake by acting brazenly and arrogantly when women sought a hearing on a matter that concerned very real life-and-death issues.

Continues Ruiz-Austria: "Last May 24, WomenLead filed an administrative petition before the DOH secretary requesting the re-opening of the administrative procedure, which resulted in the withdrawal of the BFAD registration of Postinor.

"On national television, the DOH secretary immediately rejected the petition without calling for any additional hearings or position papers on the matter.

"In various media statements, he even called Postinor an abortifacient for preventing implantation of a fertilized ovum and for preventing fertilization from occurring. Again this is even a more alarming view than that espoused by the Catholic lobby. If Catholics believe (and I will defend their right to have this belief and practice it but not to impose it on those who have different views) that fertilization is conception, what is the DOH secretary's position if he thinks abortion happens when fertilization is prevented?

"This would actually be so much worse than the already inaccurate interpretation by the BFAD of the constitutional provision on conception because that would practically rule out all types of contraception. Much worse, it establishes conception or life before fertilization.

"That would mean monthly menstruation is unintentional abortion (punishable under the Penal Code) and male masturbation is genocide!"

(More tomorrow)

Random notes (2)

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L.Harper

ACCORDING to this Señor Fulgosio (Cronica de las Islas Filipinas, 1871), Bulacan in his days used to be known as *Meycauayan*, or the place of the bamboos. It was one of the richest provinces despite its small size, sylvan and salubrious. Convalescents from other provinces would gather to take in the air and restore their lost health. Not without reason was it called "*el jardin de Filipinas.*"

Various mountains crossed its territory, especially in the east where the sierra of the oriental Caraballos rose to great heights and where there was believed to be iron and lodestone mines and quarries of stone. The iron from the mine Sampang-Bacal was as good as that of Vizcaya in Spain. It is said that in all the mountains from Mt. Caraballo de Cagayan up to those of San Mateo and Antipolo in the province of Tondo, there were abundant minerals, carbon as well as copper. Large veins of alabaster some 10 leagues in height could be found in caves in disproportionate masses beside Punig.

In the mountains there was lime, flint stones and, according to rumors, amethyst, topaz and emerald and slate. The most important river was the Quingua whose pure and crystalline water (any of you see the Quingua lately?) flowed through the towns of Angat. San Rafael, Quingua, San Isidro and Calumpit, drained into the Pampanga River and reappeared in Hagonoy where it was lost in the nipa groves (that still exist?).

The great lake of Hagonoy that in the season of rain received the waters of the Pampanga River became practically dry in the hot season during which it was converted into immense rice lands where a great number of game animals from the marshes came to pasture.

Hagonoy had good roads (obviously a matter of opinion) and it could be said that it was possible to travel through her streets at noon without the sun going through the thick foliage that formed a crown overhead. Since there were so many streams and rivers, there were also many bridges, some of stone and others of wood and of bamboo as thick as a man's thigh. Over the *estero* of Maysantor there was a one-arch bridge of old and good sculpture under the jurisdiction of the *alcaldes* of Manila.

The land was in general flat, but there were some mountains and great felling of trees in Angat: *gogo*, *nito* and ebony, wild *casia*, *malapajo* and *panoa* which gave very good oils for use in paint manufacture. Currents of water brought with them resins and gum whose scent was superior to that of Arabia and Syria. The wax that the bees produced in tree trunks or in hidden crags without cultivation by men was very abundant and better than those found in the south and in Cagayan.

A great quantity of wine (controlled by the Hacienda Real, a much detested monopoly) was manufactured from the sap of the nipa that flourished in river banks. Nipa was used as well for roofing.

Rice was harvested abundantly, two or three harvests of corn were normal and there were lots of sesame for which there were presses in most of the towns.

Other produce included lentils and all kinds of fruits and vegetables, and coconuts from which oil for lamps was extracted. There was sugar cane, indigo which was available in paste or liquid form, coffee and excellent, but not much, cacao and pepper. Ginger was harvested and cotton used in pillows and mattresses. Many medicinal roots could be found there, the most notable being the *batata* and the *tangangtangan* from which oil could also be extracted for lighting.

Good pastures for cattle existed and much game and wild ducks could be hunted.

Many of the people were employed in sugar production and others in the 1,500 factories producing striped cloth of silk and cotton, *tapis* and *sinamay*. There were some 2,000 houses, some belonging to *mestizo* Sangleys and others to Chinese entrepreneurs, built of stone, others of stone and wood but many more of nipa and bamboo.

In the main door of the church was an image of Our Lady that was considered miraculous by the natives and to which they made many offerings. (You can't help wonder whether this door is still in the church or if it wasn't bombed out of existence, in which case in whose private collection can it be found? As for Señor Fulgosio, given the state of our national poverty, one must presume he exaggerated about Hagonoy and Bulacan's natural resources.)

In the southern part of the archipelago was the province of Caraga where in front of the cove of Bislig lived the tao-Baloyes, who were notable for their clear color and who owed their name to the Balooy Mountain. There were those who said the tribe was descended from the Japanese who were shipwrecked in the coast of Mindanao and forced to live in the mountains by the former inhabitants.

As for all these present-day arguments concerning where the first Mass in this country was celebrated and where Magellan placed the cross on a small hill near the beach, there was no argument or doubt for Señor Fulgosio that it was held in Butuan in 1521 on Ascension Sunday, simply because the Spaniards colonized this country and had all the archival records to prove where this event took place. Let me state further that having conquered the Philippines for religious reasons, I doubt that they would have made a mistake concerning an event that would have been of vast importance to the friars even if not to anyone else.

A long-distance love affair

YOUNGBLOOD

Dino Rafael R. de los Reyes

We want to know what the young ar thinking about. What are thei thoughts on current issues? We wel come contributions from th twentysomething and below.—Ed.

I HAVE a girlfriend who lives thousands of miles away. Sh is from Laos. To many Filipinos, this is an unfamiliar plac More often than not when I give this answer to people wh ask, I get a blank stare, which can be roughly translated as "Where in the world is that?" So I hasten to explain that Lao is part of Southeast Asia like our country. It is bounded by Burma in the west, Thailand in the south, Vietnam in the east and China in the north. Its official name is the Lao People's Democratic Republic (PDR).

I met her when I was a member of the Philippine contingent to an international exchange program for young people of Southeast Asia and Japan a couple of years back She was a "youth ambassador" for her country (which wa what we all were called). We were together for two months but only became an item two weeks before the program ended. And we haven't seen each other since then.

Looking back at the months that have passed, I cannot help but smile. Our most reliable means of communication is the e-mail. I have probably sent her hundreds of messages and greeting cards while she has sent me about a hundred I don't complain.

I call her on my cell phone once every two months on the average. Much as I would like to talk to her more often, can't lest my phone bill skyrocket.

I have stopped sending her stuff through snail mail. She has not received any of the CDs and gifts I gave her. But when a friend of mine went to her country for a seminar, I sent her my Valentine, birthday and Christmas gifts. I received a beautiful shirt in return—her gift for the three occasions, too!

I admit that ours is an unlikely relationship. There are so many reasons to believe that this relationship was doomed to fail from the beginning. We have so many differences, both cultural and personal.

When I talked to her to express my love and admiration, a female friend of hers was with us to provide, in their own words, "a C-party." To them, it does not look good for a lady to talk with a man alone. Her friend pretended to be unmindful of the "proceedings," but she confided later that she was listening.

Another incident that I cannot forget happened when we were on a train in Tokyo. Feeling the chill of winter, I held her hand tight. But here's the catch: she covered our hands with a thick jacket to conceal them from her friends and the other passengers.

When we were still in the program, I always told her how much I admired and loved her. I have been telling her the same thing in my e-mails and every time I talk to her on the phone. To which she can only answer apologetically in her own peculiar way of speaking English, "I don't know to say sweet words like Philippine." The sweetest thing she can write is "Take care," and very rarely, "I miss you."

One time when I let her read one of my girlfriend's letter, my Mom asked me if I was sure she was the one for me since she never mentioned anything mushy.

Language obviously is a barrier. We communicate with each other in English but she feels insecure about her little knowledge of it. She sends very short messages because she finds it hard to look for words to write.

In the 15 months that we haven't seen each other, there were many instances when doubt and anxiety threatened to overcome me. But I refused to give up. Many times I have asked her about the situation and expressed my fears. She always told me not to worry and not to think about it. She assured me that she could wait.

I believe her, and my love for her grows with each passing day.

Hopefully, God willing, the wait will be over soon. By the end of the month, I will visit her in fulfillment of a promise I made. This trip will be very significant and memorable for me. I believe this is long overdue. I have saved long and hard for this. Being a part-time college instructor with no other source of income, this trip is a big strain on my resources. Fortunately I have a very sympathetic and supportive family which doesn't expect me to contribute much for the upkeep of the house. In fact, I have asked my younger brother who is earning four times more than me to help finance my trip. I even went to the extent of calling up some popular game shows so I could have a shot at the big prize money! Unfortunately, luck was not on my side.

There are a number of things I want to accomplish during this trip. Aside from visiting her, I will meet her family who I understand belongs to a big political clan. Her father is a top health official in Laos. I will talk to them and tell them of my desire to work there. I feel as if I am making a *pamamanhikan*, with the big difference that I will be doing it by my lonesome.

Just the thought of doing all these sends a shiver down my spine. What if they told me pointblank that they could not accept me into their family? What if they told me my relationship with their daughter or sister or niece or cousin was impossible? What if they told me I am very different from Lao men?

This trip offers me the opportunity to feel and experience the kind of life they are living there. But if my excitement is mounting, it is because I will finally see her in the flesh.

It is my hope that my girlfriend and her family will appreciate the fact that I am making this trip. May they realize that what I feel for her is something that is true, honest, deep and sincere.

Wish me good luck. Wish me Godspeed.

Dino Rafael R. de los Reyes, 27, teaches Chemistry and Physics at a state college in Bukidnon.

THEY SAID

Overlooked

"We made a mistake. I, for one, did not pay attention to the financial matters. Now we look like a bunch of disabled persons."

—Former Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines president Archbishop Oscar Crus on the P190-million business scandal the group got involved in

Hoodwinked

"Very unfortunate. We have been hoodwinked up to the twilight of our life."

—Col. Charlie Beloso on the irregularities in the Veterans Federation of the Philippines

The INQUIRER is a member of the
PHILIPPINE PRESS INSTITUTE
The National Association of Philippine Newspapers

The 'uzi' plague

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

LAST week's hostage-taking tragedy reminds us of the serious harm that the "*uzi*" phenomenon can do, *uzi* being a shortened slang word for *usisero* or kibitzer.

For those who may have missed the news, the carnage involved a man, Diomedes Talbo, taking Dexter Balala, a 4-year-old boy, as hostage in a crowded Pasay bus station. Talbo only had a knife but was able to keep the police at bay for two hours before he began stabbing the child. Police then let loose a volley of bullets, killing Talbo and possibly Balala. (There is still controversy, as I write this, as to whether the child died from stab or bullet wounds.)

No doubt, the police bungled the case but the large crowd of *usiseros* complicated matters even more. The police now admit they failed to observe the "rules of engagement" for hostage incidents, particularly the requirement to cordon off the affected area. In many other countries, the cordon would have meant clearing the entire bus station of people. In this Pasay case, you could see the crowd milling around only a few meters away from the hostage-taker and the child.

Let's try to trace the origins of this *uzi* phenomenon. Jose Villa Panganiban's 1973 Tagalog dictionary defines "*usisa*" as "inquiry, investigation." Does this mean the INQUIRER could translate into "Ang Usisero"? Not quite. Panganiban listed "*usisero*" as a colloquial term and translated it into "inquisitive," a mild term compared to "*maurira*" which he said was "persistently inquisitive."

It seems that in 1973, "*usisa*" and "*usisero*" were still neutral terms with no pejorative connotations. From my own memory, "*usisero*" began to take more negative connotations after 1986, with the rash of coups that rocked the Aquino administration. Every time there was a coup, instead of rushing into the safety of their homes, people would run out into the streets to watch the "fireworks." I don't know how many people paid for that curiosity with life or limb.

"*Uzi*"—yes as in the Israeli rifle—came into use about that time and was an expression of exasperation, now more similar to the English "kibitzer," which is defined as a meddlesome onlooker (originally used for someone who would sit next to card players and offer unsolicited advice). The kibitzer is really more of a *pakialamero*, usually a benign nuisance. Our post-1986 *uzi* was a voyeur, not just deriving pleasure from watching the seamier side of humans but demanding more of this sleaze.

Who then are the *uzis*? We saw them at the Pasay bus station and it's easy to scoff, "Oh, they're mostly the uneducated, the unemployed, the ones who have nothing better to do." But really we have become a nation of *uzis*, with media playing a key role. Media pander to the *uzis* even as they create more demand, networks trying to outdo each other with the macabre, the bizarre, the gory.

Media transform a hostage-taking incident into theater. And as the cameras begin to roll and reporters shoot their questions, you see the hostage-taker playing a scripted role. The hostage-taker, often suffering from low self-esteem, is suddenly the Big Man. He demands to see other Big Men such as senators, or lately, media celebrities.

But even as he basks in the limelight, the hostage-taker knows he is paying a price. Shame comes with fame, in front of millions of *uzis* listening on radio or watching television. The microphones, the network logos and the supporting cast of *uzis* prompt and goad him. He goes into his litany of woes: an unfaithful wife, a poor paying job, an oppressive boss, a lost job, no job. He has to exonerate himself and appeals to the crowd, trying to win pity. Instead, he sees amusement and mockery in their faces.

Talbo started out waving a knife in the air as a threat. Eventually, as many hostage-takers do when they realize they have shamed themselves and their families, Talbo turned belligerent, ominously changing his grip on the knife and eventually turning on his victim. If he had not been shot down, he would have probably killed himself as well.

What's so disturbing about last week's incident was the way the news was carried on television. I was able to catch three newscasts that night and was thankful I did not have young nephews or nieces around. GMA (Channel 7) tried the hardest to be ethical by digitalizing the images, but there was still enough of the movements, including the thrusting of the knife, to leave me squirming. ABS-CBN used a color filter to "mask" the grisly scenes but it was still too translucent, sometimes even enhancing the violent scenes. ABC (Channel 5) didn't bother to mask or to digitalize, their video clips reminding me of the controversial ABS-CBN footage a few years ago of dogs being slaughtered for food.

Certainly, the *uzi* phenomenon isn't limited to the Philippines but it's time we reined in whatever base instincts that drive us, helping people to recognize the harm this *uzi* plague brings on the country.

Ironically, the *uzi* phenomenon may have started out in the context of the rural *bayanihan* spirit, which made neighbors rush over to help a friend in distress. Even then, there was probably already an element of the gossip, tongues wagging even as assistance was extended. In urban settings, the *uzi* degenerated, becoming part of a spectator sport that fed off human suffering.

When it comes to hostage-taking incidents, which incidentally are actually quite common but often make it only to the tabloids, the *uzi* is not just useless but harmful. Hostage-takers are people driven to the edge by life in the concrete jungle with its drugs, overcrowded slums and Rambo films.

What next? The police promise to investigate. The politicians promise to investigate. But I fear the investigations will only end up providing added fare for a nation of *uzis*.

One people of God

AT THE RATE the Catholic priesthood is being pelted and pilloried in connection with pedophile cases in the United States and illicit sexual liaisons in the Philippines, it may well join the ranks of endangered species. In the Philippines, while the Catholic population has doubled in the last 20 years, the number of priests has remained more or less the same, giving an effective extinction rate of about 50 percent. With the sexual scandals involving priests exploding as frequently as the terrorist bombings in Israel and Mindanao, the Catholic priesthood may become virtually extinct sooner than expected.

I submit that the problem is structural, not personal, and no amount of personal solutions will solve it. The present structure of a dualistic Church—divided into the clergy and the laity, with the latter becoming effectively second-class citizens in God's Kingdom at least on earth—is part of the problem. The immaturity of some priests, who were reared in clinical seminaries under aseptic conditions, is another. And finally the mandated celibate state completes the structure that is responsible for the problems besetting the Catholic priesthood today.

The first Christian communities (around 100 A.D. to 300 A.D.) got it right. Then, there was only one people of God, not fragmented into clergy and laity, and the priests and deacons were part of the people, not apart from them. The priests were chosen by the community (*Vox populi vox Dei*—The voice of the people is the voice of God—which is the real meaning of vocation). Invariably the chosen ones were those who were mature, exhibited high spirituality, love and devotion to the Christian faith, and who manifested all these in their lives and works. Celibacy was a peripheral issue, and most of the early priests and bishops were in fact married. They also lived by the toil of their hands, just as St. Paul remained a tent maker all his life and did not need doles from the community he served for a living. More important, since these early priests graduated not from the seminary but from the school of real life, pedophilia, illicit sexual relationships and other forms of immaturity did not touch them. Their financial independence also removed them from money scandals and problems.

Can the present-day Church go back to this basic structure of early Christianity? Yes, and in fact it is beginning to do so, unwittingly perhaps (this is the way the Holy Spirit works many times). In most parishes there is a set of lay ministers who serve as priest-extenders mainly in distributing Holy Communion at Sunday Mass. Of course, most of them are elderly and retired, and are just doing time before they sail into the sunset and meet their Maker, but the move is in the right direction. They are chosen on the basis of their spirituality, maturity, love and dedication to the Church.

Now, if only the Church through the parish community can select younger and more vigorous men with the same set of qualifications, give them basic training in the priestly disciplines, ordain them and make them practice the priestly craft in each parish, then it will be very possible that pedophilia and illicit sexual liaisons will be things of the past. Not to mention the other problems afflicting the priesthood today, such as the lack of priests, inadequacy of the seminary training, the immaturity of some priests, financial security for priests in their old age and financial transparency in money matters. Celibacy? Oh well, it will maintain its value but will be a peripheral issue, just as in early Christianity.

—SAMUEL J. YAP,
2 Verbena, Doña Manuela, Pamplona 3, Las Piñas City

Women soldiers should have the chance to prove mettle

THIS has reference to the article, "Female cadets let their hair down," by Frank Cimatu which saw print last May 26.

It was alleged in that article that "like his predecessors, PMA superintendent, Brig Gen. Edilberto Adan, does not believe women soldiers should be assigned to the battlefront." He was also quoted as saying that "even the Israeli army, which has the biggest number of female soldiers, does not allow women in direct combat."

Adan denies this. What he said at the "Kapihan sa Baguio" was that the wisdom of assigning female PMA graduates to the frontlines couldn't be readily ascertained. He stressed that this question of women in combat can be best answered in seven to 10 years when the first batch of female Philippine Military Academy graduates of 1997 will have reached the ranks of captains or majors. By then, their combat experiences could have been recorded and the lessons gained documented. This information may be used by the Armed Forces of the Philippines leadership in deciding the deployment of women to the battlefront.

As PMA superintendent, Adan believes that women in the military, particularly officers who have graduated from the PMA, must be given the chance to prove their mettle in fields of assignment commonly dominated by men. He believes that they should be given non-traditional roles apart from desk jobs in garrisons. He is not only an advocate of gender sensitivity and equality, he also inspires and encourages female cadets to excel.

In several instances when he spoke to the cadets, he cited personal experiences with female officers under his command who have performed exceptionally in the field.

—EDGARDO A. AREVALO, major PN(M),
spokesperson,
Philippine Military Academy,
Fort Del Pilar, Baguio City

BRIG. Gen. Edilberto Adan did not say the particular quote during the formal Kapihan sa Baguio but he did so during the lunch that followed. The journalists who ate with the general, including two other correspondents of the INQUIRER, can attest to that.

He also indeed said that the success of the women graduates will only be ascertained after 10 years but I held that information for a longer story I was planning for the 10th anniversary of the entry of women into the Philippine Military Academy.

I am glad that Adan supports gender sensitivity and equity.

—FRANK CIMATU

"We are Proud to be Mapuans!"
Board Topnotchers
2002 Licensure Examinations

Mark Anthony D. Balberona
Mechanical Engineering
1st Place

Christian Ereño
Electrical Engineering
2nd Place

Ronald L. Meneja
Civil Engineering
2nd Place

Jonathan M. Anastacio
Mechanical Engineering
5th Place

Bernard A. Artienda
Chemical Engineering
5th Place

Wilberto L. Quiozon
Civil Engineering
7th Place

Allan M. Manalo
Mechanical Engineering
7th Place

Alexis Mann C. De La Torre
Chemical Engineering
7th Place

Bernard Y. Rodrigo
Electrical Engineering
8th Place

Mark Allen C. Perez
Electronics and Communications Engineering
10th Place

QUARTERM is not just a race to the finish
It's all about Focus and Productivity

The International Coalition for Overseas Filipinos' Voting Rights (ICOFVR)

TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE PHILIPPINE CONGRESS

PASS THE ABSENTEE VOTING BILL NOW!

PANAHON NA!

- **More than 7 million Filipinos overseas have, for the last 15 years, been denied their fundamental political right to vote *in absentia* in any of our political exercises.**
- **This denial we place squarely upon the shoulders of our national political leaders who, despite the explicit mandate of the 1987 Constitution for Congress to provide for a system of absentee voting, have since proceeded with an attitude made remarkable only by their inexcusable inaction, callous neglect or outright indifference.**
- **The right to vote *in absentia*, practiced by more than 40 countries, is not unique to the Philippines. But ours is a necessity made unique by the economic circumstances that compel a sizeable number of our citizenry to seek better opportunities abroad, yet remain politically marginalized, mute and powerless, even as they are hailed at every politically expedient turn as economic saviors for remitting billions of dollars a year.**
- **We are a citizenry no less informed of the political and economic realities obtaining in our homeland than those who remain. The realities that affect our country and our families affect us no less, demand that we neither be ignorant nor indifferent.**
- **We are a citizenry determined to elect only the best possible leaders and create an electorate free from the corrupting influence of guns, goons, gold and glamour. The distance that removes us physically from the political arena is the shield we shall wield to create a compelling focus on platforms and issues.**
- **We are a citizenry tired of being fed the same lame excuses; excuses made even lamer by the actions that exhibit neither sincerity, nor commitment.**

  The fear of fraud is a fear made fraudulent by the fact that the Filipinos overseas are beyond reach by the usual corrupt campaign practices and influences. It is a fear not resolved by denying the 7 million overseas Filipinos their right to vote. It is a fear addressed only by a manifestly sincere effort to craft and pass a good law.

  After five Congresses, four Presidents and 15 tedious years, some 64 absentee voting bills have been filed, some rigorously debated in Congress. Through our local representatives, we have helped craft the bills now pending before both Houses, assiduously attended countless working group meetings and legislative consultations, in country and abroad. There we extensively discussed the pros and cons of specific provisions in light of the principles and procedures in other jurisdictions viewed against our peculiar political circumstances. We have sought the advice of numerous local and international experts on how to prevent systemic fraud, in principle and in practice, through the committed involvement of the overseas Filipino communities.

  Our efforts have yielded an Absentee Voting Bill that now rots on the legislative shelf simply because some legislators choose to default on their duty to study the proposals, or make any, even as a sincere gesture towards crafting a truly good law!
- **We are tired of being fed the same empty promises made even emptier by the predictability of their being broken as a matter of political habit.** Every election time, politicians assure us that we will surely be able to vote. At no election since 1987 have we been able to. In August, 2001, Speaker Joe De Venecia, together with key House leaders, told a delegation of some 50 representatives of the overseas vote lobby that the House would surely pass its version before the December adjournment. Our solons promptly went their merry ways soon after the General Appropriations Act was passed. More recently, we have been assured, again, that the bill would be passed on, or before, June 6. "Don't worry; it will be passed."
- **We shall not now simply watch, listen and wait much longer.** We have been keenly watching, patiently listening for the last fifteen years. We shall not now allow our welfare and interests to be held perennial hostage to the parochial agenda of leaders and legislators more attuned to their political fortunes than to the future that we, even as powerless but convenient tools, help create by our labors.
- **We shall now answer another promise, broken by further legislative inaction, with a promise of our own:** We shall marshal all our resources in support only of the lawmakers willing to fight for us in Congress. We promise to actively boot out of office those obstructing the long overdue passage of the Absentee Voting Bill! And please do not forget that we will remember.

June 7 is Migrants Day

GIVE the 7 million Overseas Filipinos a reason to celebrate!
PASS the Absentee Voting Bill before adjournment on June 6!

All signatories are those who have supported the absentee voting campaign through prior express support, active campaign involvement, endorsement of any of our online or offline petitions, or sponsorship of this ad.

Bayanihan, The Netherlands • **CFMW International Office**, Netherlands • **Creative Synergy, Inc.** • **eLagda, Inc.**, International • **FFON**, The Netherlands • **FMW** • **HEALTH**, Riyadh, Saudi • **HOSTT**, Riyadh, Saudi • **KAKAMMPI**, Manila • **Kasapi Congress**, Western Region, KSA • **Kasapi-Greece** • **KMMP/Ed Cunanan**, Al Khobar, KSA • **Mabuhay Toastmasters**, Riyadh, KSA • **MOTHER**, Riyadh, KSA • **OFW Bank**, Kuwait • **OFW Congress**, Riyadh, KSA • **OFWNet Foundation** • **Philippine Solidarity Group Netherlands** (FGN) • **Platform Friends in Manila** • **Platform-Denmark** • **PSAP**, The Netherlands • **SEC-CRB - Saudi Electric Company, Central Region Branch** • **ABB (Asea Brown Boveri) Employees Association**, Saudi Arabia • **ABB Overseas Contract Workers International** (ABB-OCW), Riyadh, Saudi Arabia • **ABQAIQ CCRM** - Saudi Arabia • **Advanz Corporation** • **AFW** • **Aikido Spirit Int'l Martial Arts** (ASPIMA), Riyadh, Saudi Arabia • **AIUP** • **Akbayan Citizens' Action Party**, Manila • **Akbayan Citizens' Action Party**, Philippines • **Akbayani Citizens' Action Party**, Athens Chapter, Greece • **Alab Katipunan, Philippines** • **Alab, Bayanihan** - The Netherlands • **All Filipino Basketball Association** (AFBA), Riyadh, Saudi Arabia • **All Filipino Community & Sports Commission** (AFSCOM), Saudi Arabia • **All Filipino Table Tennis Association** (AFTTA), Riyadh, Saudi Arabia • **All Workers Alliance Trade Union** (AWATU-Trade Union Congress of the Philippines, TUCP) • **All-Filipino Community Sports Commission** (AFCSCOM) • **Alliance of Ilocano Organisations in Athens**, Greece • **Alliance of Migrant Workers and Advocates to Amend RA 8042** (AMEND) (advocacy network of 14 organizations) • **Alliance of Progressive Labor** (APL), Philippines • **Al-Maarefa Int'l School - PTA** (AMIS-PTA) • **ALNI Philippines** • **Alpha Phi Omega Riyadh Alumni Association** (APORAA) • **Alpha Sigma Phi** (ASPHI) • **Alterlaw**, Philippines • **ALU-TUCP** • **Amistad-Associacion de las Mujeres Filipinos**, Barcelona, Spain • **Apalitenos**, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia • **Apostleship of the Sea-Manila** (AOS) • **APSOTEU – TUCP** • **Association of Cabalen Expats** (ACE) • **Association of Cavitenos in Saudi Arabia** (ACSA) • **Association of Filipino Civil Engineers** (AFCE) • **Association of Filipino Tennis Players** (AFTPA) • **Association of Filipinos in Austria** • **Association of Ilonggos of Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Inc.** (AIM), USA • **Association of Maguindanaos in Riyadh** • **Association of Ranao Engineers and Architects (AREA)** • **Association of Sea-Based and Land-based Workers 2** (SILAW 2) (composed of 6 migrant organizations) • **Association of Unified Talents and Integrated Expatriates** (AUNTIE), Riyadh, Saudi Arabia • **ATU–TUCP** • **Babaylan - Philippines Women's Network in Europe** • **Babaylan**, Switzerland • **Babaylan**, United Kingdom • **Babtain Group-SAMAFIE-ABG**, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia • **Bacolod City Govt Employees Union** (BCGEU) • **Bagong Bicol Saro nin Jeddah** (BBSJ) • **Balik-Kalikasan, Riyadh**, Saudi Arabia • **BAR Multi Purpose Cooperative** (BMPCO), Riyadh, Saudi Arabia • **Basketball Association in Saudi Oger** (BASO) • **Basketball Association of Riyadh** (BAR) • **Basketball Players Association** (BPLAS), Riyadh, Saudi Arabia • **Batangas Association**, Encino, California • **Batangas Brotherhood International** (BBI) • **Bayanihan - Philippine Women's Centre**, Netherlands • **Bayanihan Center for Filipino Migrants**, Denmark • **Belig ti Ilocano Ditoy Saudi Arabia** (BISA) • **Bicol Anom of Dubai and Northern Emirates** • **Bicol Expatriate in Saudi Arabia** (BESA) • **Bicol Saro nin Riyadh** (BSR) • **Bicolano Expatriates in Saudi Arabia** (BERSA) • **Bicolano Expats in Riyadh Cooperative** (BERCO), Riyadh, Saudi Arabia • **Bicolano Expats in Riyadh Games and Amusement Board** (BERGAB) • **Bisayang Igsoon sa Saudi Arabya** (BISAYA) • **BISIG Philippines** • **BISIG Nederland** • **Black Python Martial Arts Association** (BLACK PYTHON) • **Bohol Leyte OFW Cooperative** • **Boholano Community in Jeddah** (BCJ) • **Bol-Anong Calapenhon sa Riyadh** (BCSR) • **BUKABIN** • **Buklod Kabataan Binhi (Sangkap-Buhay)** (BUKABIN) • **Buklod Sining Art Group, Riyadh, Saudi** Arabia • **Bukluran ng Manggagawang Pilipino** (BMP) • **Bulacan Migrant Workers Assn** • **Businessmen's Group in Jeddah (BGJ)** • **Caballeros de Dimas-Alang, Inc.**, San Francisco, USA • **Capampangan Aley sa Capwa** (CAPWA) • **CarCanMadCarLan**, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia • **Cavite-Laguna-Batangas-Rizal-Quezon** (CALABARZON) • **CBCP-Episcopal Commission for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant People** • **Cebuano Speaking Org in Saudi Arabia** (CSOSA) • **Center for Overseas Workers** (COW), Philippines • **Center for Popular Empowerment** (CPE), Philippines • **Central Committee on Gen. Assembly (OFW Congress)** (CCGA) • **Central Mindanao University Employees Association** (CMUEA)· NCGEWC – PGEA) • **CFMW International**, Amsterdam • **CFMW-Italya**, Italy • **Christ the King**, Greece • **Christian Coalition for Good Governance** (CCGG), Philippines • **Circulo Ti Ilongo sa Saudi Arabia** (CISA) • **CLO** • **Coalition Against Trafficking in Women-Asia Pacific** (CATW-AP) • **Commission of Filipino Migrant Workers**, Europe • **Commonwealth USA**, Olongapo City • **Community Advocacy for Seafarers' Concerns** (CASCO), The Netherlands • **Computer Society of Filipinos** (COMSOFIL) • **Computer Society of Filipinos** (COMSOFIL), Riyadh • **Concepcion Tarlac Workers Association** (COTAWA) • **Concerned OFWs Association** (COFWA), Eastern Province, Saudi Arabia • **Concerned OFWs Association** (COFWA), Saudi Arabia • **Confederation of Independent Unions** (CIU) • **Confederation of Labor and Allied Social Services** (CLASS) • **Consortium for Electoral Reforms** (CER), Philippines • **Council of Filipino Associations in Austria** (representing 16 major Filipino organizations in Austria) • **Council of Filipino-American Organizations of the Pacific Northwest** (representing 8 major organizations in the State of Washington) • **Couples for Christ**, Greece • **Couples for Christ**, Spain • **Crown Asia/ Asia Plus Philippines** • **Cultural Potpourri** (POTPOURRI), Riyadh, Saudi Arabia • **Damayan**, Denmark • **Damayang Filipino sa Nederland**, The Netherlands • **Danish Filipino Association**, Denmark • **DAVAORNOS**, KSA • **D'Circulo Capizeno (D'Circulo)**, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia • **Department of Environment and Natural Resources, NCR/ Phil. Government Employees Association** (PGEA) • **Development Action for Women Network** (DAWN), Philippines • **Diligent Workers Assn. Reaching to Filipinos in Saudi** (DWARFS) • **DIWAN**, KSA • **Dulambuhay Theatre Guild** (DULAMBUHAY) • **Dumaguete Association of OCWs**, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia • **Dutch Pilipino Association**, The Netherlands • **Eagle Force OFW Association**, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia • **Economic Resource Center for Overseas Filipinos** (ERCOF) - Switzerland • **eLagda - Riyadh**, KSA • **eLagda, Inc.** – Global Community of Filipino Connected Through Technology (127,000 members in 65 chapters worldwide) • **eLagda-Pinoy-Expats** • **Empower** (Global Coalition for the Political Empowerment of Overseas Filipinos) • **EPS Basketball Conglomerate**, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia • **Excellent Philippine Arts and Talents Society** (EXPATS), Riyadh, Saudi Arabia • **Executive Council** (OFW Congress) (EXECON) • **Expatriate Darters of Saudi Arabia** (EDSA) • **Exultrade Business Center**, Makati City • **Federation of Filipino Organisations in the Nederland** (FFON) • **Federation of Free Workers – Labor Solidarity Movement** (FFW-LSM) • **Federation of Free Workers** (FFW) • **Federation of Maranao Associations in Saudi Arabia** (FEMAS) • **Federation of Pilipino-American Chambers of Commerce**, (FPACC) • **FFW-TSPICEU** • **FilCar International**, Ontario, Canada • **Filipino American Society of Architects and Engineers** - San Francisco • **Filipino Basketball Association (FBA)** • **Filipino Christian Bayanihan in Italy**, Italy • **Filipino Community in Norway** • **Filipino Community in Yanbu** (FILCOYAN) • **Filipino Community of Riyadh Al-Mishary Hospital** (FILCOM-MISHARY) • **Filipino Confederation of Basketball Referees** (FCBR), Riyadh, Saudi Arabia • **Filipino Dental Association in Saudi Arabia** (FILDASA) • **Filipino Expatriates Society** (FES), Riyadh, Saudi Arabia • **Filipino Florists Assn. In Saudi Arabia** (FIL-FLORA) • **Filipino Golfers Association** (FGA), Riyadh, Saudi Arabia • **Filipino Golfers Club** (FGC), Riyadh, Saudi Arabia • **Filipino International Martial Arts Brotherhood, Inc.** (FIMAB) • **Filipino Int'l. Martial Arts Brotherhood, Inc.** (FIMAB) • **Filipino Muslim League** (FML) • **Filipino Nurses Society in Saudi Arabia** (FILNASA) • **Filipino Overseas Bowlers of Riyadh** (FOBR) • **Filipino Overseas Reps for Consumer and Ethical Prod and Services** (FORCEPS), Riyadh, Saudi Arabia • **Filipino Parish (Parroquia Immaculada Concepcion y Lorenzo Ruiz**, Spain • **Filipino Photographers Guild** (FPG), Riyadh, Saudi Arabia • **Filipino Retirees & Employees Overseas Movement** (FREOM) • **Filipino Women's Council**, Italy • **Filipino Youth Network in Europe** (FYNE) • **Flying Tigers International Martial Arts Organization**, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia • **Fortune Medicare OCW's Association** (FMOA) • **Fourth Watch International**, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia • **Friends of Overseas Filipinos**, Singapore, Manila, The Netherlands • **FWR – TUCP** • **Gabay ng Manggagawangg Pilipino**,Riyadh, Saudi Arabia • **Gabay-OFW** • **Geneva Forum**, Switzerland • **Gintong Alay for Culture and Arts** (GACA) • **Global Alliance of Filipinos for Filipinos**, USA • **Grupo Ilonggo in Saudi Arabia** (GISA) • **Guardians International Brotherhood, Inc.** (GUARDIANS) • **Hospital Employees Alliance Towards Health** (HEALTH), Riyadh, Saudi Arabia • **Hospitals Invitational Team Tennis Tournament** (HITT), Riyadh, Saudi Arabia **Iloilo Migrant Workers** (IMW-CC) • **Indang Cavite Cooperative Overseas**(ICCO), Riyadh, Saudi Arabia • **Info Systems**, Saudi Arabia • **Institute for Political & Electoral Reforms** (IPER), Philippines • **Institute of Computer Engineers in Riyadh** (ICE-R) • **Institute of Integrated Electrical Engineers of The Philippines Central Region Chapter** (IIEE-CRCSA), Riyadh, Saudi Arabia • **Institute on Church and Social Issues** (ICSI) • **Integrated Institute of Electrical Engineers - Eastern Province** (IIEE-EP) • **INTERCEDE**, Toronto, Canada • **Inter-Hospital Sports Team Tournaments** (HOSTT) • **International Coalition on Overseas Filipinos' Voting Rights** (ICOFVR-KSA), Saudi Arabia • **International Kuntaw Federation** (Riyadh Chapter) • **Inter-Social Cultural Welfare Organization** (ISWO), Riyadh, Saudi Arabia • **Int'l Phil. School - PTA** (IPSR-PTA) • **Intl. Scuba Divers and Anglers Assn** • **IPAO** • **IPSR Parents and Teachers Association** (PTA), Riyadh, Saudi Arabia • **Iriga City Overseas Workers Association** (ICOWA), Riyadh, Saudi Arabia • **ITO** • **Jeddah Assn of Fil. Engineers and Architects** • **Jose Panganiban Expatriates** (JPEX), Riyadh, Saudi Arabia • **Kaagapay**, Cotabato City • **Kababayan**, The Netherlands • **Kabuhayan Kooperatiba ng Kapatirang Manggagawa** (KKKM), Riyadh, Saudi Arabia • **Kaibigan ng OCWs**, Philippines • **Kaibigan, Inc.**, U.S. (New York, New Jersey, Connecticut area) • **KAKAMMPI** (Kapisanan ng mga Kamag-anak ng Migranteng Manggagawang Pilipino) • **Kalayaan**, United Kingdom • **Kalinga ng Manggagawang Pilipino** (KAMPI), Riyadh, Saudi Arabia • **Kalipunan ng Manggagawang Cavite** (KAMACA), Riyadh, Saudi Arabia • **Kalipunan ng Manggagawang Pilipino sa Industrial Area** (KALMAPI), Riyadh, Saudi Arabia • **Kaliwat Bol-Anon, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia** • **Kamao, Alliance of Progressive Labor** (APL) • **KAMAPI** • **Kanlungan Center Foundation**, Philippines • **Kanlungan Filipino Consortium** (Bahay Kubo, Pinoy Forum, Lingap, Philippine Resource Centre) – United Kingdom • **Kapatiran sa Gitnang Silangan** (KGS), Riyadh • **Kapisanan Anak Kawit** (KAANAK), Riyadh, Saudi Arabia • **Kapisanan ng mga Filipino sa Groningen**, The Netherlands • **Kapit Lakas** • **Kapitbahayan**, The Netherlands • **KASAPI Congress** - Western Region • **KASAPI Congress**, Eastern Province, Saudi Arabia • **Kasapi Youth**, Greece • **KASAPI-Hellas**, Greece • **Kasimanwa, Riyadh**, Saudi Arabia • **Katilingban Sang Mga Ilonggo**, United Arab Emirates • **Katipunan ng mga Mangdarayuhang Manggagawang Pilipino** (KMMP), Al-Khobar • **Kauswagan OFW Cooperative** (KOFWC) • **King Tier Taekwondo**, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia • **KMPI** • **Knights Toastmasters Club** (KTC), Riyadh, Saudi Arabia • **KOMPIL**, Negros Chapter • **Kulay Pinoy** (Fine Artists) • **Kumare-Kumpare**, Manila • **La Punti de Abanico** (LAPUNTI), Riyadh, Saudi Arabia • **Labor Education and Research Network, Inc** (LEARN) • **Lady of Angels Filipino Parishioners/KGMAers**, New York City • **Lakas ng OCW**, Philippines • **Lensbug International, Riyadh**, Saudi Arabia • **Lensmaster**, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia • **Leyte, Biliran, Samar Association** (LeyBiSa), Saudi Arabia • **Leytenos OCWs**, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia • **Liberated Pinoy Association** - Hong Kong • **Lifestyles**, Los Angeles • **Likha – TUCP** • **Lobo (Batangas) Expatriates in SA** (LESA) • **Lumbatan**, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia • **Mabuhay Toasmaster Club**, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia • **Maguindanao Professional Overseas Workers Association International** (MAPOWA), Riyadh, Saudi Arabia • **MAISA** • **Malayan Theater Group**, Italy • **Manggagawang Kababaihang Mithi ay Paglaya** (MAKALAYA), Philippines • **Manggagawang Kapit-Bisig** (MKB) • **MARINO** (Mariners' Association for Regional and International Networking Association) • **Migrant Forum in Asia** (MFA) (regional network with 20 member organizations to date) • **Migrant Initiative**, Germany • **Migrants International** • **Military Hospital Basketball Association** (MHBA), Riyadh, Saudi Arabia • **MMOA** (Merchant Marine Overseas Association) • **MMOFU** (Merchant Marine Overseas Filipino Union) • **MORIATO DIWEN** • **Movement for the Advancement of Student Power** (MASP), Philippines • **Movement to Help Eradicate Rape and Other Female Abuses** (MOTHER), Riyadh • **MPGEU** • **MPSTA** • **Munting Nayon**, Greece • **NACUSIP – TUCP** • **NaFFAA - U.S.** (NaFFAA, the biggest federation of Filipino organizations in the US with 3,000 affiliate members) • **NARDEEN**, Riyadh • **NaRS, Riyadh**, Saudi Arabia • **National Federation of Filipino-American Associations - Region VII** (representing 20 major organizations in the states of Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and Alaska) • **National Greening Movement Foundation** (NGMF) • **National Home Mortgage Finance Employees Association** (CIU) • **Network Opposed to Violence Against Women Migrants** (NOVA) (organizational network of 15 women organizations) • **NUPP – TUCP** • **Obrero Pilipino** • **OCW Association** (OCWA), Riyadh, Saudi Arabia • **OFW Bank**, Kuwait • **OFW Chamber of Commerce and Industry** (OFWCCI), Riyadh, Saudi Arabia • **OFW Congress Eastern Province**, Saudi Arabia • **OFW CONGRESS**, Riyadh, KSA • **OFW Congress-Riyadh**, KSA • **OFW Credit Cooperative**, Eastern Province, KSA • **OFW Credit Cooperative**, KSA • **OFW Investors Society** (OFWINS) • **OFW Printers Association in Saudi Arabia** (OPRASA) • **OFW Protect**, Philippines • **OFW Riyadh Bikers in Saudi Arabia** (ORBISA) • **OFW Sports Commission** (OFWSCOM) • **OFWC - EP** • **OFWNet Foundation** • **OFWs-Cabalen** • **OFW-Vote E-Group/ Overseas Filipinos Worldwide – Global** • **Order of the Knights of Rizal** (OKOR) • **P&P Multi-Purpose Coop**, Riyadh, KSA • **P. Laguna Workers Association**, Riyadh, KSA • **PACIWU –TUCP** • **PADAYON** • **Pag-asa** • **Pagkakaisa at Unawaan ng mga Organisasyon** (PUNO), Riyadh, KSA • **Palarong Pilipino Sports Commission**, Riyadh • **Pangamponga Baloi Brotherhood Association** (PBBA), Riyadh, KSA • **Pangasinan Saudi Investors** (PSI-MPC) • **Pangasinan Saudi Workers Assn** (PSWA) • **Panthers Int'l Martial Arts Association, Inc.** (PIMAF) • **Paring Bol-anon Worldwide**, San Francisco, US • **Party for Overseas Workers' Empowerment and Reintegration** (POWER) • **Pasali Cooperative**, Nederland • **PBBA Multi-Purpose Cooperative**, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia • **PCUP Employees Association**, (PEA, Cebu) – PSLink • **Peasants Fund**, QC, Philippines • **Peoples' Global Exchange** (PGX), Philippines • **PETAGS**, Riyadh • **PGEA** • **Phil Centennial Org of Photographers** (PHILCOP), Riyadh • **Phil Community of Mass Media** (PHILCOMM), Riyadh • **Phil International Multi-Purpose Cooperative** (PICO), Riyadh • **Phil Karate Dijitsu International** (PHILKAD), Riyadh, KSA • **Phil Martial Arts and Combat Association** (PHILMACA), Riyadh • **Phil to the World Entertainment Foundation**, Inc. (PWEFI), Riyadh • **Phil. Association of Mechanical Engineers** (PSME) • **Phil. Federation of GOCC Employees Unions** (PFGEU) – Confederation of Independent Unions (CIU) • **Phil. Inst. of Certified Public Accountants - Eastern Province** (PICPA-EP) • **Phil. Institute of Certified Public Accountants** (PICPA) • **Phil. Int'l Guardians, Inc.** (PIGI) • **Phil. Int'l. Multipurpose Cooperative** (PICO) • **Philippine Alliance of Human Rights Advocates** • **Philippine Benevolent Missionary Association**, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia • **Philippine Chaplaincy Achdiocese of Machelen, Brussels** • **Philippine Combat Martial Arts Training Association, Inc** (PHILCOMBAT), Riyadh • **Philippine Communications of Mass Media** (PHILCOM) • **Philippine Federation of Labor** (PFL) • **Philippine Guardians Brotherhood, Inc. KKMC Chapter** (King Khalid Military City), Riyadh, Saudi Arabia • **Philippine H.E.L.P. (Human Endeavor to Lessen Poverty) Foundation**, Vancouver, Canada • **Philippine International Multipurpose Cooperative** (PICO) • **Philippine Jubilee 2000** • **Philippine Migrants' Rights Watch** (PMRW), an advocacy network of 10 migrant organizations • **Philippine Network, Inc.**, New Jersey, USA • **Philippine Seamen's Assistance Program** (PSAP), The Netherlands • **Philippine Society of Mechanical Engineers** (PSME) • **Philippine Solidarity Group Netherlands**, FGN • **Philippine Women's Forum of Germany** • **Philippine-American Chamber of Commerce of Arizona** • **Philippine-European Solidarity Centre**, Europe • **PICPA Riyadh Chapter** • **PICPA Toastmasters Club**, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia • **Piglas –APL** • **PIILU** • **Pinagsamasamang Lakas ng mga Pilipino Sa Italya** (PILAPIL), Italy • **Pinoy Association of Workers in Saudi** (PAWIS) • **Pinoy Friendly Group** (FRIENDLY), Riyadh, Saudi Arabia • **Pinoy Press Club** (Press/Media People) • **PKI- Blades** • **Platform of Filipino Migrant Organisations in Europe**, an alliance of 75 organizations • **PLWA** • **Polangui Overseas Workers Welfare Association** (POWWA) • **PoliticalUpdate.com Boston**, MA, USA • **Polomolok Government Employees Association- CIU** • **PPSTA** • **PPU Forum Global** • **PPU Forumers – Worldwide** • **Project OFFWUD** (Overseas Filipinos & Friends Work for Unity and Dignity) • **PSI-FFW** • **PSU – TUCP** • **PTGWO** • **Raba Kuntaw Confederation of Martial Arts** (RABA KUNTAW) • **Radyo Pinoy**, Denmark • **Ranao Toastmaster Club**, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia • **Regional and Civic Groups Alliance**, Belgium • **Residents of Asingan Mutual Organization in S.A.** (RAMOS), Riyadh, Saudi Arabia • **RIVAssociates Corporation**,USA. • **Riyadh All Black Belters Association** (RABA) • **Riyadh All Filipino Tennis Association** (RAFTA) • **Riyadh Artists Guild International** (RAGI) • **Riyadh Basketball League** (RBL) • **Riyadh Inter-Continental OCW Association** • **Riyadh Inter-Hotels Sports Committees** (RHSC) • **Riyadh International School - PTA** (RIS - PTA) • **Riyadh Toastmasters Club** (RTC) • **Rizal Expatriates in Saudi Arabia** (RESA) • **Samahan ng Manggagawang Filipino** - ABG (SAMAFIL) • **Samahan ng mga Filipino sa Belgium** • **Samahan ng mga Manggagawang Filipino - ABG** (SAMAFIL), Riyadh • **Samahan ng mga Manggagawang Pilipino**, Belgium • **Samahan ng mga Migranteng Pilipino sa Barcelona**, Spain • **Samahan ng Optometrista sa Pilipinas** (SOP), Riyadh, Saudi Arabia • **Samahang Buklod Sining** (SBS), Riyadh, Saudi Arabia • **Samahang Hiligaynon** (SAHI), Saudi Arabia • **Samahang Ilokano sa Saudi Arabya** (SISA) • **Samahang Manggagawa sa Paliparan ng Pilipinas** • **Samahang Pilipino sa Yemen** • **Samahang Pilipino**, Zurich, Switzerland • **San Juan Batangas OCW Association** (SJBOCWA), Riyadh, Saudi Arabia • **San Lorenzo Society Japan**, Nagoya • **San Miguel de Mayumo**, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia • **Sangguniang Masang Pilipino International Foundation Incorporated** (SMPIFI), Riyadh, Saudi Arabia • **Sangkap - Buhay** (SANGKAP-BUHAY-EP) • **Sarilaya** (Kasarian, Kalayaan), Philippines • **Saudi Arabia Hiligaynon, Inc.** (SAHI) • **Saudi Arabia Lipong Capampangan** (SALICAP) • **Saudi Telephone Bowling Team** (SAUDITEL) • **Scalabrini Migration Center** (SMC) • **Science Club Advisers Association.**, DepED Region 8 • **SDP – FFW** • **Seafarers Club Athens**, Greece • **SEC-CRB - Saudi Electric Company** - Central Region Branch • **Second Phil. International School - PTA** (SPIS-PTASTAGE) • **Sentro ng Manggagawang Pilipino sa Ibayong Dagat** (SMPI) - TUCP • **SHAKBA International Association, Riyadh** • **Sikaran Martial Arts Brotherhood in Saudi Arabia** (SMBROSA) • **Silangan** - The Netherlands • **Simaron Integrated Martial Arts** (SIMA) • **Simbelo ng Pangkapatirang Pilipino sa Gitnang Silangan** (SIPAG) • **SKKP-Foundation** • **SMP – NATOW** • **Social Community Action and Development Foundation, Inc.** (SCADFI) - Manila • **Society of Talents in Arts & Group of Entertainers** (STAGE), Riyadh • **Solidarity Philippines Australia Network - Centre for Philippine Concerns**, Queensland, Australia (SPAN-CPCA) • **SPFL** • **SST – Riyadh** • **Stichting Kapatiran**, The Netherlands • **Student Council Alliance of the Philippines** (SCAP) • **Sugbuanon sa Saudi Arabya**, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia • **Tanghalan ng Gitnang Silangan** (Theater Artists) • **Tanglaw Toastmaster** • **Task Force Detainees of the Philippines** (TFDP) • **The Filipino, United Kingdom** • **The Ilonggos of Saudi Arabia** (TISA), Riyadh • **The Philippine Women's League of Japan** • **Tiaong Quezon Overseas Workers Association** • **Tropang Pinoy**, Baku, Azerbaijan • **TUCP** • **Tuluyang Pinoy - Switzerland** • **TUP Employees Union PSLink – TUCP** • **TUPAS** • **Ugnayan Pilipino**, Stockholm, Sweden • **Unified Council of Community Leaders** (UNCLE) • **Unified Ilocano**, Belgium • **Union of Muslim Associations - Eastern Province** (UMA-EP) • **Union of Muslim Associations** (UMA), Riyadh • **United Capampangan Association** (UNICAP), Riyadh • **United Cavitenos** • **United Filipino International** (UFI) • **United Filipino Seafarers** (UFS) • **United Maguindanao Expats Association** • **United Quezonians in SA** (UNQESA) • **United Surigaonon in Saudi Arabia** (USSA) • **United Visayas Mindanao**, Greece • **Unlad Kabayan Migrant Services Center**, Philippines • **UNNAYAN**, Riyadh • **Victorian Community in Brussels** • **VoteHere.net** • **Women in development Foundation** (WIDF) • **Working Group of Women Religious against Trafficking in Women**, The Netherlands • **WSN** • **Youth of Batangas and Associates**, United Kingdom • **Zamboangenos Association in Saudi Arabia** (ZASA) • **Zatrac Tractor Basketball Sports Club**, Riyadh • **Alfred Ganapin**, KSA · **Armand Oliveros**, US • **Bert Burriga, Jr.**, KSA • **Bishop Jose Palma**, Calbayog Diocese, Samar • **Ceasar Torres**, States • **Daphne Ceniza Kuok**, Hong Kong • **DCR**, US • **Fe**, Canada • **Gil Ramos**, US • **Gina and Ed Abitona** • **Jun Aguilar/ Lakas ng OCW** • **Jun Sigaya**, eLagda-Riyadh • **Mae Ann Pineda** • **Marvin Bionat**, US • **Miguel Bolos** • **NaRS/Amie Silo**, KSA • **Ricky Sardiosa**, Hong Kong • **Rodel Yap** • **Romie Cahucom**, OFW Investors Society • **Romy Tangbawan**, KSA • **Ronnie O. Abeto**, eLagda-Riyadh • **Tita Ophie**, Singapore • **Winda/ Moonglow**, Canada

advt.

Sec. Heherson Alvarez violated the Constitution on two counts, conceded Philippine sovereignty to foreign governments to regulate and supervise 110,000 hectares of forestlands to non-Filipinos and violated DENR DAO 99-53 on four counts

OPPOSITION TO THE CONFIRMATION OF DENR SEC. HEHERSON ALVAREZ

By : Rep. Prospero A. Pichay
LAKAS, Surigao del Sur
May 28, 2002

> *Mga Pilipino, lalung-lalu na ang mga kabataan, ating bantayan kung paano boboto ang mga miyembro ng Commission on Appointments. Tingnan natin kung kanilang pababayaan ang mga paglabag sa Saligang Batas. Ating pakatandaan kung sino sa kanila ang magkikibit balikat lamang habang ang bansa ay ibinebenta sa mga dayuhan*

Mr. Chairman, Honorable Members of the Commission on Appointments, fellow legislators, guests and friends.

This representation has come before you today to join the many and varied voices objecting to the confirmation of the nominee for the position of Secretary for the Department of Environment and National Resources.

And I stand before you to reiterate the collective opposition of 23 other Congressmen from Mindanao to the confirmation of Mr. Heherson Alvarez as DENR Secretary.

This has been a most difficult decision for many of us, for not only is the nominee a former congressman who was with us in the opposition to the previous administration, he is also a senior official of the party to which I belong.

Nevertheless, we must now go beyond fealty to personalities out of love for our country and our people. And so I join my own voice to the ringing echo of Mindanaoan Congressmen, who like me are intent on protecting our environment and safeguarding our natural resources for future generations.

Honorable members of the CA, the nominee has been in his post for just a year now, and yet his acts are so objectionable, we, the 24 Congressmen from Mindanao believe that his tenure should not extend even a day more.

Mr. Chairman, I have here in my possession, documents which point to a clear trail of irregularity and questionable behavior on the part of Sec. Alvarez, in a series of transactions to give five foreign corporations control over a major portion of the forestry resources in the CARAGA region.

In so doing, he has committed clear violations of Constitutional provisions and of several key DENR regulations, all for the benefit of five companies of questionable ownership. Not only are these firms terribly under-capitalized, they are also being foisted on us as majority-owned by Filipinos with neither the financial resources nor the technical capability to undertake a project of such huge magnitude.

Indeed Mr. Chairman, it is almost certain that these Filipinos are merely the dummies of their foreign partners, for there can be no doubt that these five firms share a common ownership, as the same names keep appearing in all the articles of incorporation.

What we have here is a 'behest transaction that makes a mockery of our aspirations for the rational and sustainable use of our forest resources, and which sacrifices our collective patrimony for the benefit of a few who are not even Filipinos.

Ironically, the Caraga region has been declared a timber corridor. The noble idea is to make the region the continuing source of the country's wood requirements through tree plantation projects.

But the nominee has manifested his utter disregard for the welfare of Caraga by entering into agreements that will probably make tree plantation agreements, known as IFMAs, a byword for anomalies.

The net impact is to make genuine investors shy away from such projects and make it extremely difficult for Caraga to realize its dream to again supply the country's wood needs, but this time on a continuing basis.

A press release from the office of the nominee claimed that the agreements granted the five companies the right to develop 110,000 hectares into productive plantations. It further said that the projects had confirmed financial support from the New Zealand and Finnish governments. A fantastic amount of 800 million US dollars were touted as promised investments.

Yet curiously, for such a massive project with confirmed funding, neither the project proponent nor its alleged funders have come forward to clarify and answer the many questions raised over its alleged anomalies. All that has come out are obfuscations and answers to questions that are not being asked.

But the facts we have on hand are quite clear.

Shannalyne, Inc. and Tecland, Inc., two firms with common shareholders first signed a contract for four IFMAs on June 15, 1998 with then DENR Secretary Victor Ramos, with a total area of 61,334 hectares.

Last year, on May 18, or barely three years later, five companies under the Shannalyne group signed with Mr. Alvarez five IFMAs with a total area of 127,468 hectares, bringing the total area under Shannalyne to 188,802 hectares. Joining Tecland under the Shannalyne group were Goldenbell Hills, Inc.; Tansland, Inc.; and Caraga Forest, Inc.

It is quite an achievement for these companies to amass tenurial rights for 188,802 hectares of forest land in just three and a half years, especially if we consider that Caraga Forest, Goldenbell, Tansland and Tecland have a paid up capital of only 68 thousand pesos each, and Shannalyne, just 400 thousand pesos.

This amount in paid up capital is even less than the required payments under DAO 99-53, namely, 50 centavos per hectare and a survey fee of 50 pesos per hectare, plus the actual transport cost of the survey team to the site. For the area under the four IFMAs signed in 1998, the cash requirements for the survey fees alone will amount to more than P1.9 million for Shannalyne and more than P1.1 million for Tecland, or several times their paid up capital.

For the IFMAs signed by Sec. Alvarez in May 2001, the cash requirements is more than P1.76 million for Goldenbell; 653,470 pesos for Tecland; P1.9 million for Caraga Forest, and P1.76 million for Tansland, or up to three times more than the companies authorized capital.

DAO 99-53 clearly states that IFMA applicants should show proof of financial capability. What kind of proof did these Shannalyne companies show to the DENR and Sec. Alvarez?

Going to the ownership, for each of the four smaller companies, the foreign shareholders contributed 50,000 pesos of the paid up capital of 68,800 pesos. For Shannalyne, the whole paid up capital came from the foreigners.

Sec. Alvarez wrote the Department of Justice to confirm whether unpaid subscription counts in determining Filipino ownership. Perhaps, if one were talking here of a simple venture, such issues would not even matter.

But in **Section 2, Article Twelve of the 1987 Constitution, and echoed in Section 4 of Executive Order 278 issued on July 25, 1987, the development or use of forestlands and/or forest resources is limited to Filipino citizens or corporations, or associations, whose capital is at least 60 percent owned by Filipinos.**

In each of the four smaller companies, records show that 70 percent of the capital was contributed by foreigners.

For the main company, Shannalyne, the SEC records show that only the foreign shareholders contributed paid up capital. As of last Friday, May 24th, SEC records show no increase in capitalization.

But who are the Filipino shareholders? A check with the forestry professionals and industry players does not give any clue as to who the lady shareholders are. Perhaps, Sec. Alvarez can provide more details as he seems to have reposed a lot of trust in them.

After all, DAO 99-53 requires that applicants be equipped with track records in forest development and management to be eligible for DENR tenurial instruments.

The Articles of Incorporation of Goldenbell show that the three Filipina incorporators used their passports in the notarial acknowledgment page instead of the usual Community Tax Certificate.

Can it be that they do not possess CTCs for having been out of the country for sometime already? Can it be that their expertise is more relevant to household chores and taking care of children in Singapore?

Who are these three individuals, Marianne T. David, Ailene D. Carlos, and Arlene C. Benedicto, who are only identified by their passport numbers? Ms. David and Ms. Carlos are also the shareholders in Caraga Forest, and Ms. Benedicto is also in Tansland and Tecland.

In the notarial acknowledgment for the Board Resolution 04-97 adopted in October 1997, passports were also used to identify Ms. Ailene S. Cristobal, Ms. Luz Gomez Naguit, and Ms. Mary Jane Ibay. Ms. Cristobal and Ms. Ibay are in Shannalyne, Tansland and Tecland and Ms. Naguit is an investor in Shannalyne.

Perhaps the DENR has already launched a program to tap the funds of overseas Filipinos for the IFMA program, but Secretary Alvarez is just biding for the proper time to inform the nation and the public.

Who are the foreign shareholders? Almost all of them share common addresses. For instance, the incorporation papers list four with the surname Tan. Three, Jean Tan, Cheow Teck Tan, and Alyne Chee Tian-Ann, all used the same address at 31 Trevose Crescent, Singapore.

Jean Tan and Jean E. M. La'Brooy even have the same Singaporean passport number issued on April 2, 1996. Curiously, Jean Tan is treasurer of Caraga Forest, Goldenbell Hills and Shannalyne, Jean E. M. La'Brooy is treasurer of Tecland, while Alyne Chen Tian-Ann is treasurer of Tansland.

Alyne and Jean Tan both use 31 Trevose Crescent as their address. Indeed, these foreign shareholders seem to live together and have common interests like investing in three plantations in the Philippines. Or perhaps it runs in the family.

Mr. Chairman, were these IFMA contracts in violation of laws and regulations that Sec. Alvarez had sworn to uphold? Did the contracts comply with the 60 percent capital ownership rule as required by the Constitution? All records show they did not.

Were the companies qualified as per Section 10.3 of DAO 99-53 that specifies the requirements for application? Records show they did not.

Did the IFMA contracts signed by Sec. Alvarez violate the provisions for applicants of Section 6 of DAO 99-53 that restricts the maximum aggregate size of the IFMA area they can contract to 40,000 hectares?

Were the use of five different companies with shareholders with the same surnames, same addresses, and same treasurer, just a scheme to circumvent the limits set by DAO-99-53 on the maximum area allowed to new applicants? You don't need to be a Sherlock Holmes to answer this one.

Section 20.8 of DAO 99-53 allows additional areas only after an IFMA holder has satisfactorily complied with the terms and conditions of his IFMA based on performance evaluation by the DENR, provided that the resulting aggregate area shall not exceed 40,000 hectares. Was Shannalyne evaluated for its accomplishments after the signing of its IFMAs in 1998? If so, what accomplishments did it manage to show?

And assuming it did have something to show, its holdings already totalled 37,900 hectares. Sec. Alvarez added another 5,000 hectares in May 2001.

All the foregoing are violations so blatant, that they may well be examined later on by other authorities. But the succeeding moves of Sec. Alvarez takes the cake.

On December 2001, he signed a "CO-PRODUCTION AGREEMENT UNDER THE STEWARDSHIP OF THE GOVERNMENTS OF NEW ZEALAND AND FINLAND."

The co-production agreement was signed by Sec. Alvarez for the Philippines and by Mr. Cheow Teck Tan representing Shannalyne, and by the Ambassadors of New Zealand and Finland as Stewards.

A whereas clause states that Tecland, Tansland, Caraga Forest, and Goldenbell have all waived their rights, interests and claims from their previous IFMA applications covering areas in the co-production agreement, spanning 110,790 hectares in Agusan del Sur.

Thus, out of 127,468 hectares of IFMAs that Sec. Alvarez signed in May 2001, 110,790 hectares were transferred to Shannalyne, leaving 16,678 hectares still with Tansland.

Its 16th whereas clause says the governments of New Zealand and Finland have committed to support the agreements as Stewards.

Webster defines Steward as "one called to exercise responsible care over possessions entrusted to him."

What are the possessions that Sec. Alvarez entrusted to the two foreign governments? Has he surrendered Philippine sovereignty over the areas identified in the co-production agreement? Was there a definition of Stewards and their authorities and responsibilities?

Under the agreement, the supervision, arbitration, oversight functions were transferred to the Stewards or to a committee where Shannalyne and the Stewards outnumber the representatives of the Philippine government by a ratio of five to three.

Was Sec. Alvarez authorized by the Philippine government, including the Senate, to allow foreign governments to have this mandate over an activity that our Constitution restricts to Filipinos or associations or corporations whose ownership is 60 percent Filipino?

With this co-production agreement, Sec. Alvarez not only gave a restricted activity to a foreign-controlled and owned corporation, he also transferred the supervision, arbitration, and oversight functions to foreign governments.

There is more.

When the four firms waived their rights over the areas contracted under their IFMAs in May 2001, in favor of Shannalyne, did **they violate Section 18 of DAO 99-53 which allows such transaction only if the IFMA has been in existence for three years, the IFMA holder has faithfully complied with the IFMA terms and conditions, and the transferee is qualified to hold an IFMA.**

But are the agreements really different?

A reading of the two shows that they are substantially the same. 37 out of the 39 provisions of the co-production agreement are also the same provisions in the pro-forma IFMA contract as prescribed under DAO 99-53.

So why void the previous ones and call the new one by another name. What are the problems sought to be eliminated by this exercise? Is it the citizenship issue of Shannalyne, or the overly large area being contracted to it, or its lack of financial and technical qualifications?

Perhaps, for the sake of the country, the foreign proponents and their local partners should be called before the confirmation of Sec. Alvarez proceeds to the next stage, to shed light on these issues.

Alternatively, Mr. Chairman, this body may just ponder on the following before it moves further :

Were the signing of the IFMA contracts in May 2001 in violation of the Constitution?

With the signing of the co-production agreement, was the Constitution violated again?

Did Sec. Alvarez concede sovereignty with the appointment of two foreign governments as Stewards?

Were the purposes of the co-production agreement, to create a smoke screen and to circumvent existing DENR regulations clearly violated in May 2001?

Either way, we pray that the CA would do its bounden duty to spare the country and its people from further depredations on is patrimony.

Thank you and good day.

Will the honorable members of the Commission on Appointments tolerate the culpable violation of Sec. Heherson Alvarez, not only of his own DAO 99-53 but also the sacred law of the land the Philippine Constitution?

Paid by Philippines for the Pilipinos Movement, ==Nationalist Forestry Professionals,Manobo Tribal Council, Agusan del Sur.

Ang Paglabag sa Saligang Batas Ay Hindi Maikakaila

EXCELLENCY
of NEW ZEALAND
Sec. HEHERSON T. ALVAREZ
HIS EXCELLENCY
The Ambassador of FIN

Alvarez shown signing contract

ADVT.

DepEd officials excited over curriculum reform

From page A1

set for school year 2004-05.

Skipping Phases 3 and 4, Roco is implementing the restructured curriculum this school year with all public elementary and high schools nationwide as "pilot schools."

All for the best

It is an experiment affecting millions of elementary and high school students and more than 400,000 public school teachers. But this is all for the best, according to Roco.

Education Undersecretary Fe Hidalgo, who is tasked with leading the implementation of the "millennium curriculum," claims that "the teachers and principals" are supportive of this move.

"Feedback from teachers, principals, superintendents and regional directors shows that DepEd personnel are gung-ho about implementing the BEC," Hidalgo said.

"Secretary Roco is moving the whole organization toward the common goal of raising the quality of Filipino graduates and learners, and the front-liners—the teachers and principals—are up to this challenge," Hidalgo said in a speech about the curriculum.

She said DepEd recognized the need to update teachers in various instructional approaches and strategies such as integrative and collaborative teaching.

Between April and mid-May, DepEd simultaneously conducted training seminars for all public school teachers at the school level.

"This is a decentralized training program led by the school divisions, which will encourage teaching approaches appropriate to the local situation," Hidalgo said.

As of May 13, 387,047 of the more than 400,000 public school teachers had received training on the BEC, according to Roco.

Roco said additional 1,500 teacher-trainers were trained in high school Math and that they were now conducting school-based training.

But the question of how effective the training is is another matter. This will be known only during the actual implementation of the curriculum starting June 17.

Regional directors were first trained on how to implement the revised BEC only on March 6-8 in Baguio City.

From then on, it's a trickle-down training process. Regional directors were to train district superintendents, who, in turn, would train supervisors and principals. Teachers were to be trained by principals.

No layoff

Roco gave the assurance that no teacher would be laid off in the implementation of the new curriculum. "No teacher will be made redundant and none will be under-loaded or overloaded," the BEC primer said.

"This will be ensured through skillful management of schedules and appropriate organization of classes. Sample class programs will be provided," it said.

The DepEd has set up a curriculum support desk to monitor the training of teachers and implementation of the new curriculum.

Regional directors are required to report the problems on "time allotment, teacher loading, strategies and modes of delivery, textbooks, references, implementation of Makabayan."

They are also to report on the recommendations that they will make to address the problems.

School division superintendents are to submit regular reports to the DepEd curriculum support desk.

The education department knows that it faces a lot of problems in implementing the new BEC because it has not been pilot-tested, said one official, who asked not to be named.

He also noted that the training for teachers was inadequate.

Dangerous

"It's like dropping in the ocean swimmers who don't know yet how to swim properly. This is dangerous," the official said.

At the education department, those who don't entirely agree with Roco's ideas on the implementation of the new curriculum are afraid to come out in the open.

They said they would either get a tongue-lashing from Roco or be suspended for insubordination if they speak out their mind.

The DepEd primer recognizes that what Roco wants to implement needs further development, research and enhancement.

But the department is intent on discovering the flaws along the way. Through the National Education Testing and Research Center (NETRC), Bureau of Elementary Education and Bureau of Secondary Education, it wants to conduct "quarterly evaluation of the restructured curriculum on the basis of a research design from the NETRC."

"Curriculum development is a dynamic process, and thus the restructured curriculum will continue to develop throughout the pilot year and after," the DepEd said.

Several educators admit that the curriculum needs revisions. What they are questioning is the timing.

"Why the hurry to implement this now? That is everybody's question," a values education expert said. "That is what we cannot understand."

Without proper pilot testing, the education department will be putting on the line the learning of millions of school-age children, a former high-ranking education official said.

"They might end up more confused after this school year," he said. "That is the risk."

"Secretary Roco might have good intentions, but his ambition to implement this restructured curriculum nationwide without enough preparation and proper pilot-testing might backfire on him," he said.

Charge Ping, Senate report recommends

From page A1

evidence" it said.

Lacson was quick to dismiss the report as "a mere draft and, therefore, a malicious gossip."

He noted that only those who belonged to the "former majority" signed the report.

"And to attribute (the report to the Senate reorganization yesterday) makes it doubly malicious," he said. "They are just sourgraping (sic)."

Before the Senate coup, Sen. Robert Barbers chaired the committee on public order and illegal drugs; Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr., the committee on national defense and security; and Sen. Joker Arroyo, the blue ribbon committee.

The committees had conducted an inquiry into the alleged kidnapping and drug trafficking activities of Lacson when he was head of the Philippine National Police and the PAOCTF.

Barbers said the opposition moved for the reorganization of the Senate to prevent the release of the committee report.

"That report has been finished and finalized. So that is why they had to make their move to reorganize," Barbers said.

Copies of the report were spirited out of the office of Senate President Franklin Drilon just when it looked like that the Senate impasse would not be resolved.

Pre-emptive strike

"With that coup, if the committee chairs are changed, then the Lacson report will not be released," Arroyo said. "It was a pre-emptive strike."

The report said Lacson and his men should be investigated for their complicity in the abduction of Chiong Hiu Mong, Wong Kam Chong, spouses Zeng Jia Xuan and Hong Zhen Quiao, their nephew Zeng Kang Fang, and driver James Ong.

"General Lacson, while in the police service, was accountable for neglect of duty under the doctrine of command responsibility," it said.

It noted that the "PAOCTF miserably failed in its mission, yet it was the agency specially organized, specially tasked, specially funded and specially empowered to counter-act organized drug cartels."

Lacson could be held liable for violation of the PNP Code of Professional Conduct and the Code of Conduct of Public Officials, the report said.

It took Lacson to task for endorsing the Chinese Embassy's request for the investigation of the abduction of a Chinese national to Villaroman when the latter was himself named one of the abductors of Wong Kam Chong.

"To state that the solution to the drug menace will require the national leadership to demonstrate its political will by taking drastic action, letting the chips fall where they may, is to say the obvious," the report said.

It also noted that "the statistics on the status of the drug problem parlayed during the hearings are frightening."

"The situation is even made more gloomy by the evidence establishing the involvement in the drug trade and drug-related organized crimes of the top echelon mandated to suppress them," it added.

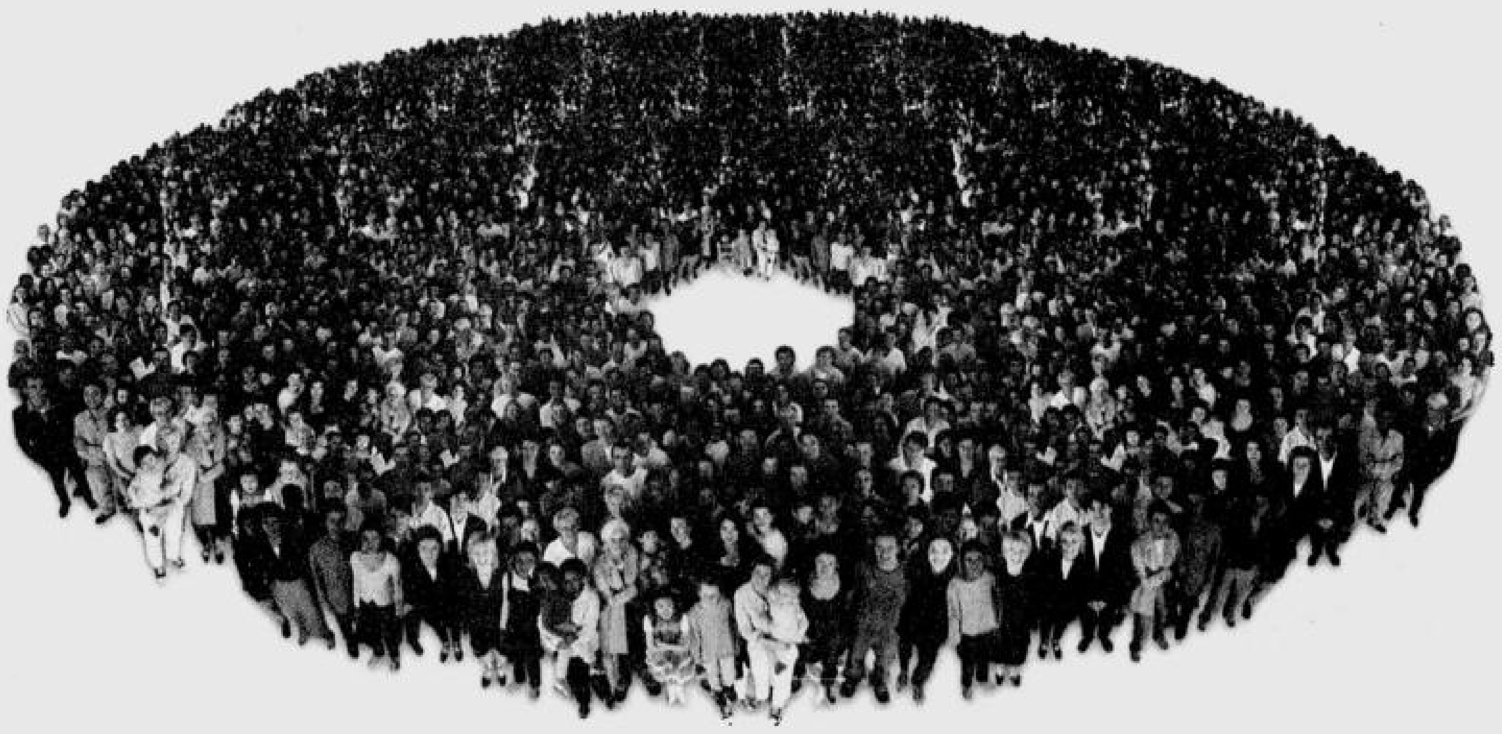
Aside from Barbers, Magsaysay and Arroyo, Senators Renato Cayetano, Juan Flavier, Francis Pangilinan, Loren Legarda-Leviste, Manuel Villar, Noli de Castro and Ralph Recto signed the joint committee report. All are administration allies.

New Senate Majority Leader Aquilino Pimentel chided Barbers, Magsaysay and Arroyo for releasing the draft report without giving the former minority members a chance to read it.

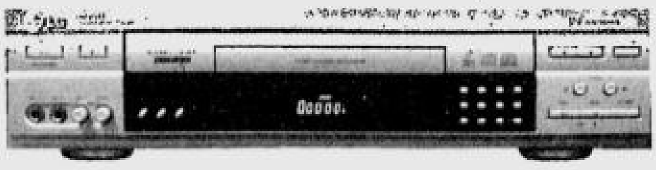
LACSON

"I, myself, saw my name in the report yet I have yet to read it," Pimentel said.

One Mega Karaoke System.



3,000 Songs. One Maestro.



Meet LG Maestro. The Mega Karaoke System that comes with a 3,000-song playlist in one CD for your convenience. You'll enjoy hours of non-stop karaoke fun with its song reservation memory and score function. It also plays VCDs, videoke discs and audio CDs. To transform your living room into a state-of-the-art KTV lounge in no time at all.

LG Collins Electronics Manila No. 15 F. Legaspi St., Maybunga, Pasig City Tel. Nos. 641-4181 up to 85. Fax 640-0460. Customer Information Center: 640-2525

LG
Life's Good!

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

US forces blow up 4 Afghan cave complexes

BAGRAM, Afghanistan—US troops blew up four cave complexes near the Pakistani border that had been used in the past by Afghan fighters, and possibly by al-Qaida and the Taliban, a spokesperson said Monday.

Around 110 US soldiers from the 101st Airborne Division conducted a sweep of the area in eastern Afghanistan, southeast of the city of Jalalabad, on Sunday, said US Col. Roger King. There was no contact with any al-Qaida or Taliban fighters.

The troops searched the cave complexes for intelligence information, King said, without elaborating. The caves may have been used by al-Qaida or Taliban fighters at some point, or by Afghan mujahideen in earlier conflicts, he said.

"One cave appeared to have been used as a hospital in the past," he said, though not recently. No weapons were found in the caves, he said.

Troops then sealed the four complexes with explosives, he said. King said he did not know what sparked the search, but suggested that the area had been on a list of suspected sites for investigation.

"We have a variety of places that are identified for future operations and we take them as we get to them," he said. *AP*

'Americans must fasten seat belts'

CAIRO—The spokesperson for the al-Qaida terror group threatened more attacks on Americans and Jews in a message published by the pan-Arab daily Al-Hayat on Sunday.

"We confirm our continuation in working to attack Americans and Jews, and targeting them, both people and buildings," Al-Hayat quoted Sulaiman Abu Gaith as saying in an article that the newspaper said was published on the website www.alneda.com. The site could not be accessed on Sunday.

"What will come to the Americans, God willing, won't be less than what has come. America should be ready and on high alert and fasten the seat belts, as with the will of God, we will come to them from where they didn't expect," Abu Gaith was quoted as saying. The newspaper did not give Abu Gaith's whereabouts. *AP*

SUSPECTED Palestinian militants board Israeli vehicles that will take them to an Army base for questioning. AP

400 Palestinians arrested

Israeli tanks encircle refugee camp

NABLUS, West Bank—Israeli troops raided a West Bank refugee camp Monday and rounded up about 400 Palestinians, as CIA chief George Tenet was en route to the West Bank for talks on restructuring the Palestinian security services.

In Israel's Cabinet, meanwhile, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon clashed with the head of the Shin Bet security services, Avi Dichter, over military tactics, media reports said. Dichter told ministers Sunday that Israeli troops should to remain in Palestinian areas until a buffer zone between Israel and the West Bank has been built. Sharon said Israel's policy of quick incursions into Palestinian towns would continue.

In Monday's raid, tanks surrounded the Ain Beit Ilma refugee camp near the West Bank city of Nablus, as jeeps and armored personnel carriers drove through the main street. Troops using loudspeakers called on all males between the ages of 15 and 50 to come out of their homes. About 400 men were taken away in four buses and two trucks to be questioned at a nearby army base, witnesses said.

The Army has been searching for militants in Nablus and another nearby refugee camp, Balata, for the past three days. On Sunday, troops blew up two houses where bomb laboratories were discovered, the Army said.

Armored vehicles also entered the West Bank city of Qalqilya on Monday and imposed a curfew, witnesses said. Troops arrested four suspected militants at a checkpoint outside the city and three others at the West Bank town of El Bireh.

In recent weeks, Israeli troops have been entering West Bank towns and villages, usually for short periods to make arrests of suspected militants. But the sweep through Nablus was a larger operation with dozens of armored vehicles involved.

The searches came as Tenet was en route to the region for talks with Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat about reforming Palestinian security organizations. The United States has demanded that Arafat's regime become more democratic and that the number of Palestinian security agencies be sharply reduced.

Sharon was expected to meet Tenet on Monday evening, a Sharon spokesperson said.

Arafat on Sunday offered Cabinet posts to Hamas and other militant groups involved in suicide attacks against Israelis as part of a government reshuffle he planned to announce in coming days, Palestinians said.

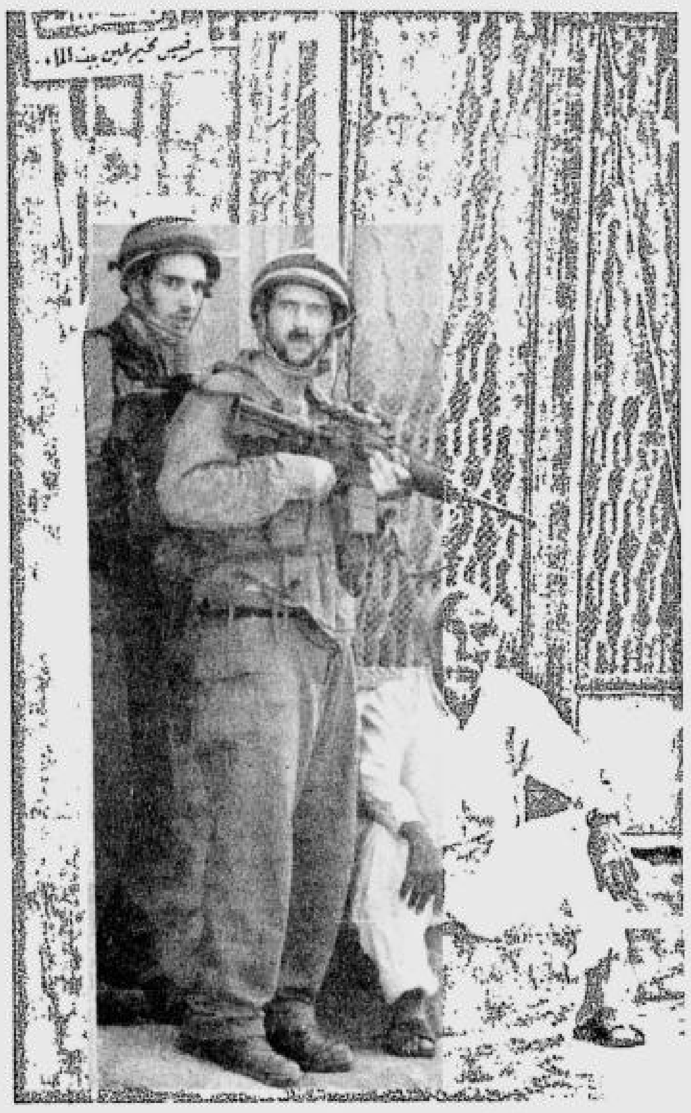
While three other radical groups have turned down the Palestinian leader's offer, saying they don't want to belong to a government that is willing to negotiate with Israel, Hamas is still weighing the proposal, the group said.

It would mark the first time in his eight years as chair of the Palestinian Authority that Arafat formally brought Hamas into government—a move likely to be strongly opposed by Israel and the United States, which both regard Hamas as a terrorist group.

"We are still consulting with our colleagues inside and outside the homeland and our final response will be declared before the end of this week," Hamas spokesperson Ismail Hania said of Arafat's proposal.

Of the more than 60 suicide attacks by Palestinians in the current Mideast conflict, Hamas' military wing has carried out some of the deadliest. The group has rejected Arafat's call to halt them.

After 20 months of fighting that has left Palestinian institutions and their economy in a shambles, Arafat has come under strong pressure to restructure the Palestinian government. But his definition of reform is likely to differ sharply from what his critics, including the United States and Israel, hope to see. *AP*



ISRAELI soldiers order a Palestinian to leave his home at a refugee camp in Nablus. AP

Pakistan pressures India to sit down, talk

ALMATY, Kazakhstan—As Pakistan's leader started a diplomatic press for India to enter talks over disputed Kashmir province, Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee said Monday that he had won support from the Central Asian leader who is playing host this week to a 16-nation security summit.

"We share identical views on what measures should be taken to resolve the crisis" over terrorism, Vajpayee said after meeting with Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev. However, he did not elaborate in his brief remarks to journalists, other than to express "faith that there would be no encouragement to those elements who believe in terrorism or religious extremism."

En route to Kazakhstan, where he was to arrive later Monday, Pakistani President Gen. Pervez Musharraf insisted that Pakistan would not start a war with India. He said that Islamic militants crossing the border from Pakistan have carried out terror attacks, including a deadly assault on the Indian Parliament in December and on an Indian Army base in Kashmir last month, which left more than 30 dead, including wives and children of Army officers. *AP*

Hardliner new Indon Army chief

JAKARTA—A lieutenant general known for his hardline stance against separatists has been named as the Indonesian Army's new chief of staff.

Ryamizard Ryacudu, who currently heads the Army's strategic reserve, will be installed as chief of staff on Tuesday, military spokesperson Maj. Gen. Syafrie Syamsuddin told reporters Monday.

Ryacudu will replace current Chief of Staff Gen. Endriatono Sutarto, who is to become head of the Indonesian military.

In the past year, Rycadu, 52, has often called for military-led crackdowns against rebels fighting for the independence of resource-rich Aceh province, about 1,750 km northwest of Jakarta.

Since Megawati Sukarnoputri became Indonesia's president last year, the military has launched a, bloody offensive in Aceh. At least 500 people have been killed this year. *AP*

GODDESS OF DEMOCRACY REUTERS

A boy in Hong Kong peers through a cutout of the statue of the Goddess of Democracy. A similar statue was destroyed during the military suppression of the pro-democracy movement in Beijing's Tiananmen Square on June 4, 1989. Thousands are expected to show up at a candle vigil in the territoy on Tuesday to commemorate those who died in the crackdown 13 years ago.

Australia's Catholic Church head refuses to quit over cover-up claims

SYDNEY, Australia—The head of Australia's Roman Catholic Church rejected resignation calls from child-abuse victim advocates Monday, denying assertions that his compensation offers amounted to efforts to buy the silence of people who said they were sexually abused by priests.

Sydney Archbishop George Pell admitted on a current affairs program Sunday night that he offered a family 50,000 Australian dollars ($28,000) in exchange for a promise not to sue over claims that their two girls were sexually abused for six years by a local priest beginning in 1987, when the younger girl was 5 years old.

Pell made the admission after an interviewer on the "60 Minutes" program confronted him with a 1998 letter from lawyers acting on his behalf when he was Archbishop of Melbourne. On Monday, Pell distributed copies of the letter to the media and pointed out that there was "no reference to any requirement of secrecy."

"The allegations that I attempted to silence anyone are totally unfounded and untrue," Pell told reporters.

"To suggest this is 'hush money' is absurd . . . no confidentiality applies," he said, adding that he had been "ambushed" by the interviewer and that was the reason for his confused answers.

Pell said he had followed the Church's rules for dealing with child abuse. He said that if victims refused the Church's offer of compensation and took legal action, they were asked to keep compensation discussions confidential so that it would not prejudice the court action. *AP*

Despite Buckingham fire, show goes on

LONDON—With a little luck, Monday night's star-studded musical tribute to Queen Elizabeth II will go more smoothly than the rehearsal.

Fire forced the evacuation of Buckingham Palace Saturday evening, interrupting preparations for the outdoor concert and marring the high-spirited, four-day celebration of Elizabeth's 50 years on the throne.

The London Fire Brigade said no members of the royal family were in the palace when the fire began in a roof apartment.

Rock star Ozzy Osbourne had just finished rehearsing outside, and the British Broadcasting Corp. reported that those evacuated from the area around the palace included the musicians Phil Collins, Eric Clapton and Queen guitarist Brian May.

The concert was expected to be a high point of the national Golden Jubilee celebrations, and the palace promised it would go ahead as scheduled.

"There is absolutely no question of it not" going on, a spokesperson said on customary condition of anonymity.

Also among those scheduled to perform for 12,000 guests and a live television audience are Paul McCartney, Annie Lennox and former Beach Boy Brian Wilson.

"There is an enormous crowd of extremely famous people here sitting on the lawn chatting on their mobile phones," May told the BBC while the fire was still burning.

The blaze was reported at 6:38 p.m. and was brought under control an hour and a half later, said Colin Williamson, a Fire Brigade spokesperson. Outdoor rehearsals resumed at 8:20 p.m. and workers were allowed back inside the palace at 9:40 p.m.

Spokesperson Penny Russell-Smith told the BBC it was unclear how the fire started, but police said it was not set intentionally. *AP*

TUESDAY, JUNE 4, 2002
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
A15

Northern Luzon Bureau
Room 201, Bonuan Apartelle
10 Happy Glen Loop, Baguio City
Tel. No. (074) 443-9255
Fax No. (074) 443-8971
E-mail: inq_baguio@inquirer.com.ph

Southern Luzon Bureau
23 Aurora St.,Old Albay District
Legazpi City
Tel. No . (052) 820-8402
Fax No. (052) 820-1274
E-mail: inq_bicol@inquirer.com.ph

Across the NATION
Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

Visayas Bureau
c/o Cebu Daily News
18-15 Escario St., Cebu City
Tel. Nos. (032) 233-0346/233-0349
Fax No. (032) 232-9938
E-mail: pdivis@skyinet.net

Mindanao Bureau
FEP Printing Corp. Bldg.
Ma-a Road, Davao City
Tel. Nos. (082) 244-1770 to 71
Fax no. (082) 2441771
E-mail:
pdiminda@dv.weblinq.com

Hospital chief tagged brains of doc's killing

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—The hospital chief in Antique has been implicated in the killing of a surgeon last February.

Jocelyn-Abiera Polido, chief of the Pedro Gindap Municipal Hospital (PLGMH) in Barbaza town, Antique has been included in the amended criminal complaint for the murder of Carlito Moleño.

Moleño, 42, was shot dead on Feb. 5 as he was about to leave the compound of the Angel Salazar Memorial District Hospital in the capital town of San Jose.

Polido is the wife of Manuel "Boyet" Polido II, who was earlier identified as among the principal suspects with Ricardo Agapito and Herman Labanon, the self-confessed gunman.

Jocelyn was named respondent in the complaint after State Prosecutor II Eduardo Areño, investigating prosecutor, granted the motion of lawyer Paulino Salmon Jr., counsel of Moleño's widow Suzette Palabrica-Moleño, to include her as a principal suspect by inducement.

In his petition, Salmon cited the testimony of Labanon during the preliminary investigation conducted by Judge Monina Misajon of the Municipal Trial Court in San Jose, Antique, alleging that the hospital chief gave him an "allowance" of ₱1,000 daily during the time they were planning to kill Moleño.

In his testimony on Feb. 12, Labanon alleged that Jocelyn gave him a total of P200,000.

Areño ordered Jocelyn to submit her counter-affidavit not later than June 11. Areño was named acting provincial prosecutor of Antique for the case on March 14 after the Antique provincial prosecutor's office inhibited itself from the case.

Suzette Palabrica-Moleño had sought the inhibition of the Antique provincial prosecutor office in the investigation of the case because provincial prosecutor Napoleon Abiera was mentioned in the affidavit of Labanon.

She also cited the fact that Abiera was the uncle of Jocelyn.

He said a hearing would be set to determine if there was probable cause to file formal charges against the respondents.

Jocelyn's lawyer, Honorato Sayno Jr. said his client had nothing to do with the killing.

"The questions that Labanon answered during the investigation were leading and incriminatory," he pointed out.

Labanon was arrested a day after the killing while an arrest warrant was already issued against Manuel Polido and Agapito.

In his affidavit dated Feb. 8, Labanon said he was hired by Polido in January to kill Moleño for P500,000.

He claimed that Polido told him that Moleño was "doing everything" to have his wife "fired" from the PLGMH.

Labanon said that after Moleño's killing, he and Agapito met with Polido near the PLGMH to confirm the killing.

Korean treasure hunters brag of go-signal from Malacañang

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—A Korean national who was allegedly responsible for the destruction of a coral reef within a protected marine area in Sarangani bragged that he had a go-signal to hunt for treasures from Malacañang.

Ismael Andang, Sarangani Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officer (Penro), told the INQUIRER that he met with the Korean national, whom he identified only as a certain Mr. Kim, when he went to Barangay Lomuyon in Kiamba town on May 17.

"Mr. Kim was so arrogant and was even bragging to me that he had a permit from Malacañang Palace," Andang said.

He added that Kim had a companion who was identified only as a certain Mr. Shim.

Andang disclosed that he tried to get the complete name of the two foreigners but Felipe Juanday, allegedly the local partner of the Koreans, reportedly refused to cooperate.

"They were using money and influence. I asked for security escorts from the Sarangani Provincial Police but the police did not provide security for me when I went to the area.

Be careful

One of the cops even told me to be careful as it (illegal activity) had a clearance from Malacañang," Andang said.

During the meeting, Andang claimed, Mr. Kim failed to produce a copy of a permit allegedly issued to him by Malacañang.

Kim, he said, showed a copy of the supposed permit from Malacañang to the village chief of Lomuyon, but "it (copy) was a blurred fax copy. Not the original one."

Aside from boasting that he had a permit from Malacañang, Mr. Kim also claimed that he also had the town mayor's go-signal.

But in an interview aired over radio station dxES Bombo Radyo here, Kiamba Mayor Raul Martinez said he did not sanction the activity of the Koreans.

"They made a courtesy call in my office. I did not give a go-signal. What I said was 'you can conduct treasure hunting provided you will not destroy anything in the area.' I told them it's up to the barangay captain in Lomuyon to decide," Martinez said.

'I don't know them'

But when he was asked about the names of the foreigners, the mayor said: "I don't know them."

The mayor even lashed at the provincial government for "by-passing" him when it conducted an investigation in the area without coordinating with his office.

But Andang said Martinez was out of town when he went to the area to investigate.

Andang said officials of the municipal agriculturist's office were with him when he conducted his investigation.

He said the May 15 coral reef blasting damaged more than 50 cubic meters of corals in Lomuyon.

Residents told reporters here that the early dawn explosion was so strong that the ground shook.

The Koreans were treasure hunters looking for buried Yamashita treasures in the area, Andang said.

Damaged corals were collected and piled up inside a private lot owned by Juanday.

Andang claimed that the corals were packed and hauled by a big motorized banca.

"I was told the corals were shipped to South Korea," he said.

Gov. Miguel Escobar vowed to file formal charges against the Koreans and their local partner.

"We are serious in implementing environmental laws in the province. Let this be a lesson to everyone," Escobar said. ***Aquiles Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

GSIS warns public of fake loan checks

LEGAZPI CITY—The Government Service Insurance System yesterday warned the public against the proliferation of fake GSIS salary loan checks in the Bicol region.

Marina Mallari, GSIS area manager, told the INQUIRER that based on several complaints they had investigated, the fake checks were the work of a criminal syndicate operating in the region.

Mallari said the latest complaint she received involved a spurious check for a salary loan worth P9,000, dated May 23 and endorsed by a certain Romeo Torres of Barangay Libod, Camalig, Albay and Camalig Central Elementary School.

A businessman in this city, who sought anonymity, turned over the check to the GSIS office here for verification after he changed it for goods and cash.

She said the same businessman could have been duped twice had he not run out of money to change a second check for cash brought by the same person.

Mallari said they discovered at least four telling defects of the check.

She said the terminal number, or last digit, of its account number was 2, which, after verification with the GSIS in Manila, has not been issued yet.

Genuine GSIS checks in current circulation have the number 1 as their last digit.

Salary loan checks of the GSIS, according to Mallari, are colored light blue, unlike the fake ones, which were light green, the same color for pension checks.

Roly Embile, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

DOT ORDER

Fatal crash prompts check on van safety

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
and Gerry T. Pagharion
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—The Department of Tourism (DOT) here is urging a stricter monitoring and screening of operations of vans plying tourist destinations after seven tourists from the world-famous Boracay Island were killed on May 27 during a vehicular accident near the boundary of Iloilo and Capiz.

DOT regional director Edwin Trompeta said the Land Transportation Office and Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) should ensure the safety of these vans by subjecting these to regular inspections and strictly subject its drivers to drug-testing.

"These measures are not only for the safety of tourists but also of commuters, who ride in these vans," Trompeta told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview.

Seven persons were killed and eight others were wounded on Monday afternoon when a Toyota van bound for Iloilo City from Kalibo, Aklan rammed into an Isuzu passenger bus from Iloilo along the national highway in Barangay Aglalana, Dumarao town, Capiz. It was the worst road accident in Capiz.

The Capiz Provincial Police Office identified the fatalities as Fernando Baquilar, the driver of the van, and his passengers Yvonne Saref, 31, Sinodin Saref Sr., Carrey May Bayonida, Shiela Matsui, and Angelo Fresnido, 42.

Nikki Alejandrino, 5, of Barangay Taculing, Bacolod City died on May 28 after fighting for her life at the Iloilo Doctors' Hospital.

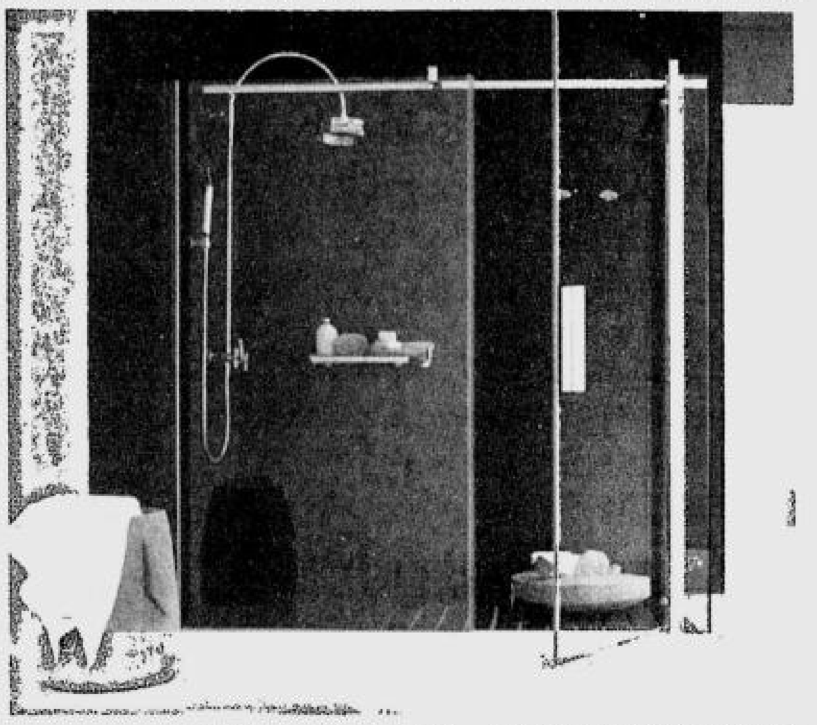
Dumarao Mayor Heracleo Benjamin said the girl, who went with the Matsui family to Boracay in Malay over the weekend, was already in serious condition when brought to the hospital due to broken ribs.

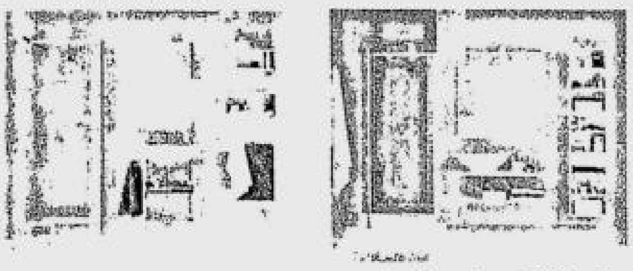
Those injured were Aiko and Cookie Matsui, Welma Villamor, 43, Angelo Besa, Sinodin Saref Jr., 3, Ilonah Jade Bayona, 11, and Clark Rey Serenia, 14.

The driver of the bus, Inocencio de la Cruz, was placed under the custody of the Dumarao police.

Reports said the van, which was hired by the Matsui family, was running fast to catch up with a ship at a port in Iloilo bound for Bacolod City.

The Functional Minimalist Design
That Is Perfect For The Modern Home





H2O

design by Antonio Citterio

Sole Agent: DEXTERTON INDUSTRIAL CORPORATION
157 Sgt. E. Rivera St. (Near Damar Village) Quezon City
Tel.: 362-1111 ; 361-6006
Fax No.: 362-0524
E-mail : dexterton@dexterton.com
www.dexterton.com

ENROLLMENT GOING ON
For School Year 2002-2003

IETI
COMPUTER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

No Tuition Fee Increase! Lowest Downpayment Upon Enrollment.

- The LARGEST Cisco Networking Academy in the Philippines
- BEST TRAINING PARTNER of Microsoft® Press in South Asia
- CHAMPION - Cisco Networking Academy Program (CNAP) Day Skills Competition
- Ranked 2nd WORLDWIDE in Brainbench International Information Technology (IT) Certifications
- CHAMPION - Cisco Networking Academy Program (CNAP) Day Skills Competition
- CHAMPION - TESDA-NCR Skills Olympics in Information Technology
- CHAMPION - TESDA-NCR Web Page Designing
- Authorized Prometric Testing Center (APTC)
- Microsoft® Office User Specialist (MOUS) Authorized Testing Center
- Authorized Sun Philippines Educational Center (ASPEC)
- First School in the Philippines to have access to the world's BEST LIBRARIES in the Internet through Grolier Online.

COURSES OFFERED:
- 4-Year Degree Courses
- 2-Year IT Diploma Courses
- 2-Year Electronics & Electro-Mechanical Courses

Get Ahead... Be Certified!!!

IETI is an Authorized Testing Center offering internationally recognized IT Certification examinations for easier Employment Abroad.

Cisco Systems
Cisco Certified Networking Associate (CCNA)

Microsoft Office User Specialist (MOUS)

IETI School System
Alabang: 842-1804
IETI College-Alabang: 850-0937 to 40
Biñan: (049)511-9386
Cainta: 655-1655/240-3856
Calamba: (049)545-6279/ to 80
Caloocan: 361-7381/364-4913
Imus: (046)471-2340/970-7574
Lagro: 417-1619/419-1173
Las Piñas: 874-4765/871-4351
Makati: 882-0435/882-0492
IETI College-Marikina: 682-2984/682-3445
Pasay: 831-1775/832-0298
IETI College-San Pedro: 868-1502/868-1505
Santolan: 721-9820/721-9824

PARTNERS IN EXCELLENCE
Cisco Systems
Microsoft® Press
THOMSON PROMETRIC
Sun
FESTO
Grolier Online
Brainbench

For more particulars, call 831-4519 / 831-7563. Visit our Website @ www.ieti.edu.ph

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Luzon will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms becoming widespread rains over the Western sections of Northern and Central Luzon. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with rains. source: pagasa

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	HI32° Lo 24°
Baguio	Rains	HI 20° Lo 14°
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 23°
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	HI 30° Lo 22°
Clark Zone	Rains	HI 31° Lo 23°
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	HI 29° Lo 21°
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 25°
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 24°
Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 25°
Roxas	Partly Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 25°
Cebu	Cloudy with Rains	HI 33° Lo 25°
Tacloban	Partly Cloudy with Rains	HI 33° Lo 25°
Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 24°
Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 25°
Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy with Rains	HI 33° Lo 24°
Davao	Partly Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 25°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/06/04/02

ROUNDUP

2 die in truck crash

MATANAO, Davao del Sur—A soldier and a militiaman were killed, while five others were wounded, after the military vehicle they were riding in turned turtle in Barangay Sinawilan here on Friday. Reports identified the fatalities as Sgt. Romeo Lala of the 25th Infantry Battalion and Celso Verano, a member of the Citizens Armed Forces Geographical Unit. The report said Lala and Verano and 18 others were on board a six-by-six military truck and were on their way to Sta. Cruz town when the accident occurred. The truck's driver, who was not identified, allegedly tried to avoid a deranged man who was lying on the roadside, but lost control of the vehicle.

Aquiles Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Smuggled medicine

DAVAO CITY—Authorities confiscated some P1 million worth of smuggled Tuseran Forte capsules, an anti-cough medicine, from an Indonesian vessel that docked at the Sta. Ana Wharf here on Wednesday. Supt. Leo Felicilda, deputy regional officer of the Maritime Command, said the smuggled medicines were "undeclared and unmanifested." Felicilda said they became suspicious of some boxes tucked in the ship's cargo bay during the inspection of the vessel. He said the Bureau of Foods and Drugs will determine whether or not the medicines were counterfeit.

Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Terror suspects released

LINGAYEN, Pangasinan—The six suspected terrorists arrested on charges of illegal possession of firearms in Anda town on May 4 were released on Thursday last week after they each posted P60,000-bail. Judge William Pascua of the municipal trial court of Anda signed their release order on May 22, but the suspects were fetched by one Gerry Saudi from the Lingayen municipal jail on May 24. Released were Tyrone Santos del Rosario alias Dawud Muslim; Redendo Dellosa alias Habil Ahmad; Pio Abogne de Vera alias Ismail de Vera; Angelo Ramirez Trinidad, Allan Cain Borlagdatan alias Abdul Hakim; and Marcelo Cenar Egil.

Yolanda Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

3 charged with theft

OLONGAPO CITY—Three men were charged with theft by the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority police for allegedly stealing 35 meters of electrical cable installed underneath the Alava Pier here on Monday. Recovered from Juan Gray, Bibiano Bautista and Fernando Martinez, all from this city, were several rolls of electrical cable worth P28,000. Police also found an improvised hacksaw and a hacksaw blade in the pier which, they said, the suspects could have used in cutting the cables.

Allan Macatuno, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Anti-piracy raids

OLONGAPO CITY—In a fight against piracy, a team from the intelligence and investigation section and mobile group of the Olongapo City police has been conducting raids on shops suspected of selling pirated video compact discs here. This was in line with the implementation of an agreement between the Videogram Regulatory Board and the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group. Earlier, police seized 6,800 pieces of pirated VCDs, compact discs, DVDs and pornographic VCDs from various stores here. *Allan Macatuno, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Wanted men nabbed

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—Three most wanted men and a New People's Army rebel were arrested by police and soldiers in a week-long operation in Quezon province and Metro Manila. Police identified those arrested as Jesus Catapang alias Tatay Pogi, 51, of Roxas, Oriental Mindoro; Richard Falla alias Ka Waway, 24, of Odiongan, Romblon; and an alleged member of the Communist Party of the Philippines-NPA in Oriental Mindoro; and Gerry Linga. Cerilo Verdan alias Leo/Eche, 30, an alleged member of the CPP in the Southern Tagalog region, was arrested in Barangay Sangian, Perez, Quezon on May 27.

Romulo Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Pa nabbed for rape

BACACAY, Albay—A man was arrested for raping his daughter in Barangay Bonga here. His 18-year-old daughter, who became pregnant last year, accused the suspect of sexual molestation. She said her father started raping her when she was a Grade 4 pupil but she could not report her ordeal because her father prevented her from going out of their house. She had the chance to report her fate to the police when the father allowed her, with her mother, to bring her child, which was born on April 18, to the health center for a checkup.

Job Belen, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Baker drowns

BACOLOD CITY—The owner of a chain of bakeries here drowned on Tuesday while swimming with his son at the Balasyang River in Barangay Pandanon, Murcia town, about 16.5 kilometers southeast of this city. Police said the victim, Manuel Dy, 58, owner of the D'Bakers Products in Bacolod, drowned about 10:30 a.m. after he was swept by the river's strong current. Three hours later, Dy's body was found still submerged in the river's water by children who were helping a search and rescue team from the Bacolod Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau

SPECIAL ACTION FORCES

Police called to stop illegal quarrying

PORAC, Pampanga—The provincial government has deployed police special action forces in Barangay Pio here on Thursday to stop illegal quarrying in the area.

Provincial administrator Benalfre Galang, Pampanga's task force quarry chief, said illegal quarrying activities in Pio had been stopped since last Thursday.

This came after members of the Nagkakaisang Magsasaka ng Pio (United Farmers of Pio) complained that illegal quarrying by the PLY Construction Co. along the Malele River was threatening to erode and dry up the irrigation system of some 60 hectares of farmland in the village.

The farmers accused provincial, municipal and environment officials of ignoring their appeal to stop quarrying along the river.

On May 23, 55 farmers presented a certification from the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (Penro) that said it had not issued any new quarrying permit to Horacio Yalung of the PLY Construction Co.

Penro officer-in-charge Regina Vitug confirmed to the INQUIRER the issuance of the certification to the farmers and said the quarry firm was still applying for a permit because its permit expired on April 11, 1999.

The PLY Construction Co., however, claimed that it had a special permit from the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to quarry sand and gravel from the Malele River.

In a statement, the quarry firm said other government agencies like Penro "are apparently not aware that other government agencies like the Mines and Geosciences Bureau are also mandated by the government to grant/issue mining permits."

The firm added that it also has a valid environmental compliance certificate (ECC).

But Nancy Cano, mining claims examiner of the MGB in Central Luzon, said the special quarry permit issued to Yalung on March 13, 2001 expired on June 13, 2001.

The special quarry permit from the MGB was good for three months, Cano said, adding that the MGB had not renewed Yalung's permit.

She also said Yalung should renew his firm's permit now with Penro because President Macapagal-Arroyo had authorized the provincial government to control and supervise quarry operations in Pampanga.

Cano, however, confirmed that Yalung was granted an ECC by the EMB on Oct. 17, 1990. Delfin Ganapin Jr., who was then undersecretary for environment and research, signed the ECC.

One of the conditions in the ECC was the adoption of measures to minimize erosion and the maintenance of a 100-meter buffer zone in the quarry site.

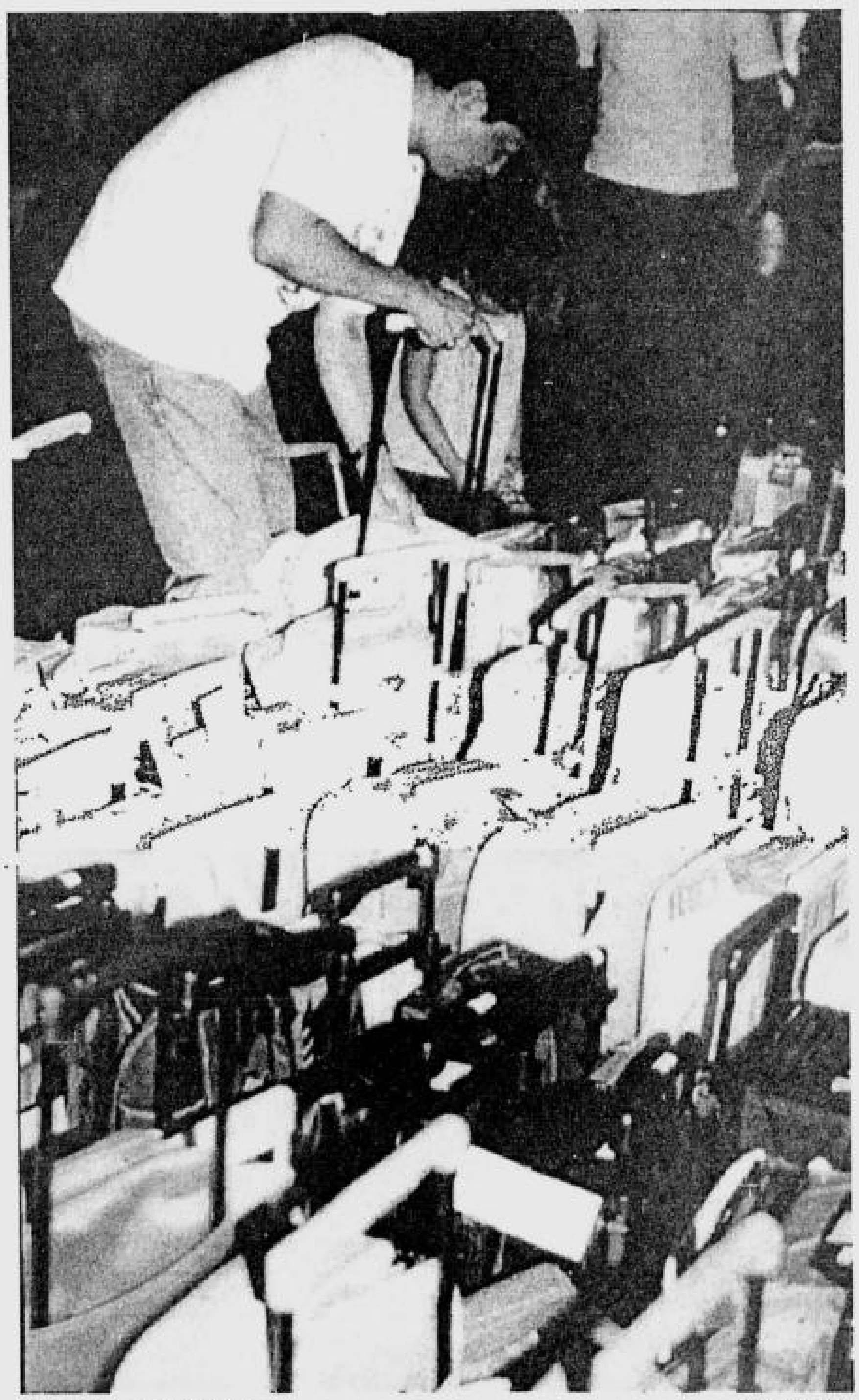
But Rafaelito Pineda, spokesperson of the farmers' group, said it was impossible to maintain a 100-meter buffer zone along the Malele River because the width of the waterway is only about 30 to 50 meters.

"Maybe (Ganapin) did not send people to make an ocular inspection of the river before issuing the ECC," he said.

Barangay Pio chief, Eduardo de la Cruz, said the barangay council has not issued any permit to PLY Construction Co. to quarry in the village.

He said quarrying along the Malele River would aggravate the erosion of their farms and would prevent water from flowing into their ricelands because the channel would become considerably deeper.

The river, he said, is the only source of irrigation for their farms. ***Jun Malig, PDI Central Luzon Desk***



SCHOOL CRUNCH

RAY ZAMBRANO

The opening of classes means more expenses, and more people in the malls, like this man in a Dagupan City shopping center.

War on NPA guerrillas forces exodus of tribe

SAN LUIS, Agusan del Sur—"*Amay, Inay, hadî kay pa og uli? Pig mingaw ad on kilugar ay* (Father, mother, when are we going home? I miss our home already)," Aki, a 3-year-old Banwaon boy, asked his parents, a question that remained unanswered.

Even his parents do not know when they could finally go home.

The child's query reflected the uncertainty in the lives of every Banwaon *lumad*, originally from the village of Tabon-Tabon, who were forced into a hamlet near a military detachment in Kilometer 29, Barangay Mahagsay here.

The hamlet was established after Army soldiers and militiamen accused them of harboring NPA rebels, who killed a militiaman assigned to the detachment a few weeks ago.

"Our hardship grew the longer we stay in Kilometer 29," said Christy Mampinsahan.

The hardship forced leaders and members of the community to meet on May 14.

During the meeting, many Banwaons complained about their condition in the hamlet.

"*Hadî kay un pakadiya ta uma ta madiyô un* (We could not tend our farmers because it is too far away now)," a Banwaon farmer said.

Endurance

An old woman commented: "*Hadî kay pakaagwanta malisod sa kauyagan* (We cannot endure the hardship anymore)."

One suggested they should go deeper into the forest but Fernando Mampinsahan, another villager retorted, "*Kung mag-diyâ ta kalasangan ikagi dan NPA kay* (If we go to the forest all the more they will suspect us of being NPA rebels)."

Finally Magal Man-ulyohan, the sitio leader suggested, "*Mas mahagsay magbakwit on lamig* (It would be better for us to evacuate to the lowlands)."

The people agreed. The following day, the community prepared for their long journey to Balit.

After eating *kamote* for lunch, Magal declared it was time to go. Men carried towering baskets containing all the worldly possessions they could carry including their children. The women also carried their share of baskets containing chicken and piglets, with their babies tied to them with pieces of cloth.

Burden

The *laas* and *odang* (old men and women) also carried whatever they were able to and children as young as 2-years-old bore backpacks of clothes and kitchen utensils. Without a backward glance, men, women, children, carabaos, livestock and all, proceeded to walk the 22 kilometer long journey to Balit, unmindful of the scorching heat of the sun.

Prayers to *Magbabaya* was their only shield, as they passed all four military detachments that they now associate with terror.

After walking for about 10 kilometers, *Magbabaya* finally answered their pleadings in the form of a mini-cargo truck and several motorcycles secured by local government officials, who were informed of the situation.

A day after the mass evacuation, an investigation was conducted by alarmed members of the town's council. They invited Mario Napungahan, the militiaman who reportedly ordered the hamleting. They also tackled the petition letter submitted by the evacuees, which detailed the abuses committed by the militiamen.

Admission

During the session, Napungahan admitted he ordered the hamleting in Km 29 after the death of one of his men.

He reiterated his accusation that the villagers harbored the fleeing NPA rebels, which Datu Mambalanyo, the tribal chieftain, denied.

As Napungahan demanded the return of the villagers to the hamlet, Datu Mambalanyo resisted.

Members of the council pleaded to Napungahan to let the villagers return to their village, but he said he could not guarantee their safety.

With this, Mambalanyo said it would be safer for them to stay in Balit.

With the stand off, the council could only provide food.

The following day, the evacuees sent a letter to Gov. Adolf Plaza about the abuses allegedly committed on them and also a request for food and medicines.

Immediately after that, the provincial social welfare office gave 10 kilos of rice to each of the 38 families.

The Commission on Human Rights in Caraga has recently stepped into the Banwaons' problem. Seldio Pilonggo, CHR regional director, said he already sent a subpoena to Napungahan and the other Army soldiers included in Banwaon's complaint.

Pilonggo admitted that reports on the rising number of abuses committed by the militiamen have greatly alarmed him.

In fact, Pilonggo said that because of the volume of complaints, the militia now appears to be the greatest violator of human rights in the region, closely followed by the military and the police. ***Ma. Kristina Cassion, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

FBI takes bomb suspect, angers mayor

DAVAO CITY—Mayor Rodrigo Duterte was fuming mad after learning that American treasure hunter Richard Meiring was spirited out by two unidentified agents of the US Federal Bureau of Investigation without coordination with city authorities.

Duterte said the FBI agents did not even bother to show courtesy when they "snatched" Meiring, 65, from the Medical Mission Hospital here about two weeks ago.

Meiring, a resident of California, was rushed to the MMH after a powerful explosion tore his room at the Evergreen Hotel here on May 16.

Authorities said Meiring, who had been staying at the hotel since December, could be toying with a homemade explosive when it exploded.

The explosion mangled his left leg.

After investigation, authorities were preparing to file charges against the American until it was found that he was no longer around.

Duterte said the FBI's attitude was so rude that he would arrest them the next time they set foot in the city.

"I will arrest you. If you want my cooperation—you give due respect. If you don't trust politicians at least inform other government agencies . . . NBI, CIDG . . . the chief of police or Gen. (Eduardo) Matillano," a fuming Duterte said.

Matillano, Southern Mindanao police director, admitted he was surprised, too, after learning that Meiring was already transferred to the Makati Medical Center.

He said the police were ready to arrest the American in connection with the blast when they received a news that US officials have transferred him to Manila. ***Ayan Mellejor and Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Judge withdraws perjury raps against colleague

BAGUIO CITY—A day after filing a perjury case against a fellow judge, who blew the whistle on alleged immorality and corruption implicating six judges here, Judge Clarence Villanueva dropped his complaint "so he can study it further."

Villanueva informed acting City Prosecutor Octavio Banta on Thursday about the withdrawal of the perjury complaint he filed against Judge Ruben Ayson of the regional trial court here, according to Josie Peralta, court records officer.

"This decision actually caught many of us by surprise. We thought it involved the testimony admitting that gambling took place inside the Justice Hall here," a court insider told the INQUIRER on Friday.

Ayson had named Villanueva among the Baguio judges he claimed had gambled and caroused while the courts were in session on Sept. 27 last year.

Villanueva's complaint included a joint affidavit from Baguio Judges Antonio Esteves and Amado Caguioa and former Baguio and now Pasig Judge Abraham Borreta that said they had engaged in the card game *pusoy* inside a courtroom on Sept. 27, 2001. The affidavit said Villanueva did not participate in the game.

The complaint refuted Ayson's testimony given to a Court of Appeals justice that Villanueva played the card game with his fellow judges.

Villanueva presented the court rulings and court transcripts of nine civil cases, which he handled between 10 a.m. and noon of Sept. 27 last year.

He argued that these trials could not have allowed him to play *pusoy* with his fellow judges, and said this proved that Ayson perjured himself before the appellate court.

"We played *pusoy* for fun on the occasion of the *despedida* of (Borreta) on Sept. 27, 2001 at 10 a.m. up to noon at the courtroom of (Caguioa) . . . Since the game was for fun only, to while away the time before the *despedida* lunch for (Borreta), our betting was minimal and a purely friendly game," the three judges said in their joint affidavit.

"It was not true that (Villanueva) played *pusoy* as claimed by (Ayson) as (Villanueva) was very busy hearing cases at that time," they said. ***Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

3 suspected bandits slain in encounter

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—Three unidentified gunmen were killed and six others were wounded when they clashed with soldiers in Barangay Turongturong in Pualas, Lanao del Sur on Thursday morning.

Lt. Col. Ernesto Boac, commander of the Army's 401st Infantry Brigade, told the INQUIRER that the encounter occurred as soldiers belonging to the 58th Infantry Battalion were pursuing a band of armed men, who disrupted the special elections in Nunungan, Lanao del Norte on May 18.

Boac said they were still pursuing the armed men.

After the clash, the military recovered at least 19 firearms from the still unidentified group.

In Cotabato City, suspected members of the Pentagon kidnap gang wounded three militiamen after they harassed a detachment of the Civilian Armed Forces Geographical Unit (Cafgu) in Barangay Tamontaka I on Thursday evening.

Col. Essel Soriano, Task Force Cotabato chief, identified the wounded militiamen as Orlando Ansing, 40; Rosellier Angot, 30 and Remegio Sarmiento, 35.

Maj. Julieto Ando, spokesperson of the Army's 6th Infantry Division based in Maguindanao, said at least eight Pentagon gunmen planted an improvised explosive along a dirt road leading to the Cafgu detachment.

As the four militiamen were approaching their base at 8 p.m., the suspects detonated the explosive and fired at them with automatic rifles.

"The militiamen fired back hitting at least three of the suspects. Apparently, the ambushers found the militiamen a hindrance in their criminal activities like kidnapping," Ando said.

Barangay Tamontaka I is one of the gateways the Pentagon uses when running to Maguindanao's marshland after abducting a victim in the city.

Meanwhile, police authorities in Southern Mindanao said Pentagon kidnap leader Tahir Alonto has made several trips to Davao City for "rest and recreation."

Supt. Federico Dulay, spokesperson of the Davao City Police Office, admitted that they have been on the lookout for Alonto but that the kidnap leader has always managed to elude arrest. ***Edwin Fernandez, Charlie Señase, Grace Cantal-Albasin and Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Businessmen,
METROSOFT
has simplified
your I.T. problems.

METROSOFT interfaced 3-system combinations from its wide ranbe of programs to create a whole new and complete system for:

PAYROLL / PERSONNEL

1 MSI Payroll System
Auto-computes different pay types - weekly, bi-monthly, monthly - from 1 to 2000 employees
Manages overtime / loan deduction schemes with - year-to-date module that allows user to enter all previous transactions
Generates latest Tax, SSS, Pag-IBIG, PHIC Insurance forms and schedules including - BIR Form 1604CF (Alphalist 7.1 ▪ 7.3 ▪ 7.4) and the New PHIC Table for Year 2002
Facilitates payroll and SSS remittances thru major banks (Optional)
Safeguards files w/ Access Security Protection
2 MSI Daily Time Record System
Records and prepares attendance reports that accommodate variable work hours and shifting schedules
3 MSI Personnel Info System
Displays comprehensive 201 Files instantly including Employment History; also prints pre-defined personnel forms

RETAIL / MERCHANDISING

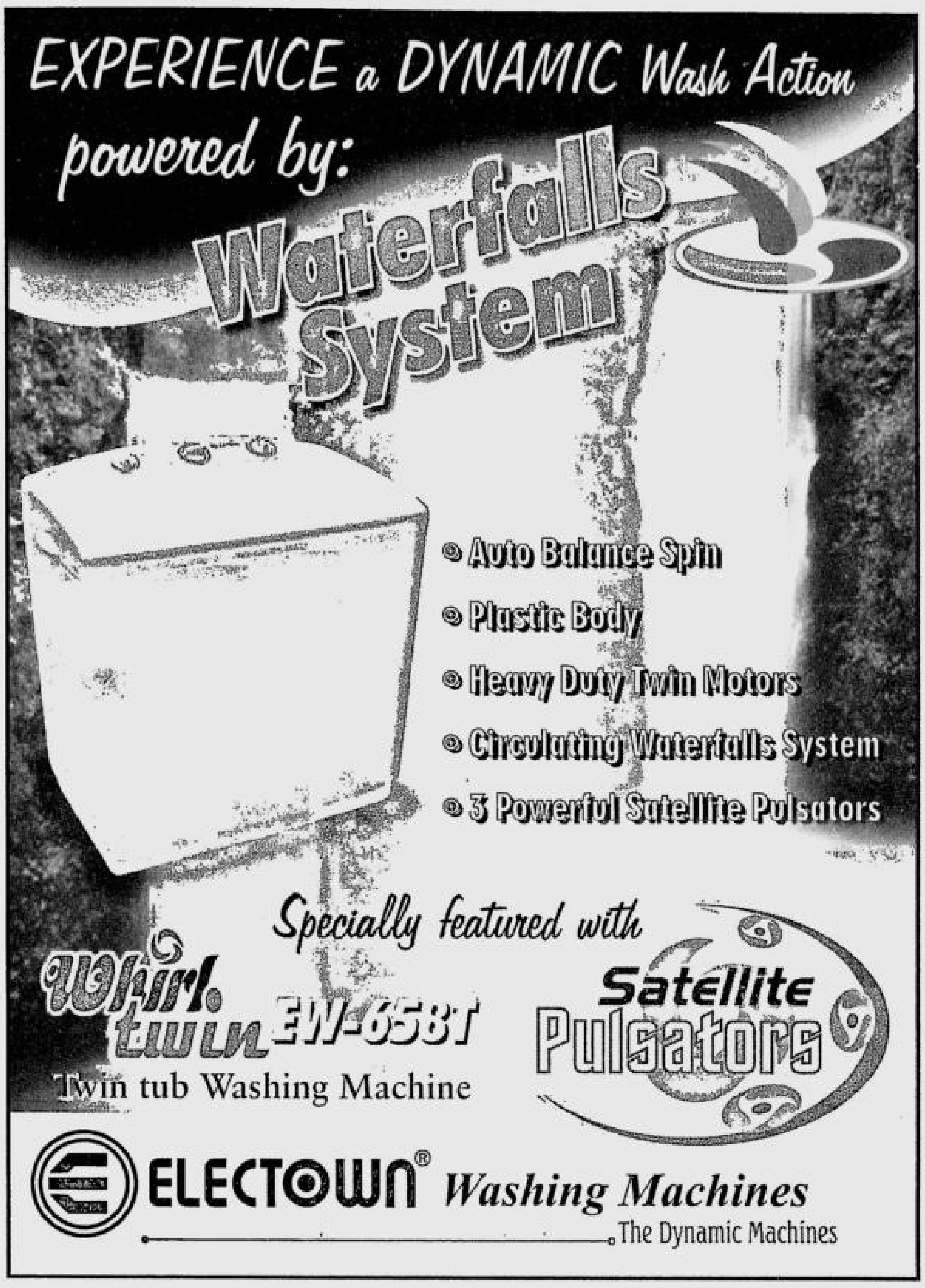
1 Profit POS or Sales System
Point-Of-Sale - Provides quick and easy cash-register style entry of charges/payments
Sales System - Controls sales transactions and prints pre-defined forms – invoices, quotations, proposals, etc.
2 Profit Inventory System
Furnishes up-to-the-minute inventory reports for single or multi- warehouse inventories
3 Profit Purchase System
Speeds up orderly and systematic acquisitions

All these under MSI 3-in-1 Easy Pay Packages.

We not only simplified IT,
we made IT even more cost-efficient.
Call now for Free Demo!

With 10 years of quality service to nearly 1,000 companies, METROSOFT MAKES I.T. EASY.

METROSOFT
LG1 Cityland 9 Dela Rosa Condominium 7648 Dela Rosa Street Makati City 1230 MM Tels: 892-2798 > 892-2808 > 892-4530 / 36 > 894-1043 > 894-1525
Fax: 892-2795 E-Mail: msi@uplink.com.ph



Switch your housing loan to RCBC Savings and get easy terms, even extra cash!

Call 633-9847 or 637-3152 now.

Avail of the lightest, friendliest home loans around. Just apply for home refinancing through ***myRCBC Real Estate Loans.***

Enjoy the lowest amortization scheme by paying as little as P899* on your monthly installments.

We can also give you a grace period of up to one year on your payments.**

Best of all, we'll even lend you extra cash to help boost your budget.

You can also reach us at:
Tel. nos.: 637-7140 • 638-1752
(0916) 566-8446/48
(0918) 519-8144
(0919) 615-8909
E-mail: housing_loans@rsb.rcbc.com

P899.73 fixed for one year for every P100,000 loan amount with a 20-year term.
*** Interest rate fixed for at least 2 years.*

A PROUD MEMBER OF BancNet
Non Stop Banking Network Member: Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation. Deposits insured up to 100 000 Php

RCBC Savings Bank

Malayan Insurance · RCBC · Grepalife · Pacific Plans · House of Investments · RCBC Bankard · AY Foundation · Honda Cars Quezon City, Manila, Kalookan · Isuzu Manila · EEI Corporation · Mapua Institute of Technology and 21 other companies working as one to better serve our customers.
www.ygc.com

YGC Yuchengco Group of Companies
TOGETHER WE CAN DO MORE FOR YOU.

5 communist guerrillas charged with mayor's slay

JONES, Isabela—Five New People's Army members were charged with murder and robbery in band before the municipal circuit trial court in Echague town for the slaying of Jones Mayor Jesus Sebastian Sr. on April 22.

Charged before the MCTC in Jones and Echague are NPA members identified only as Ka Merto, Ka Satur, Ka Jean, Ka Ched and Ka Hardin, all of the NPA's Benito Tesorio Command operating in southern Isabela.

The charges were filed in connection with the killing of Sebastian and the theft of six high-powered firearms and cash from his aides.

Police said the suspects were identified by witnesses who are under the custody of the Isabela police and through the police artist's sketches.

Court records said that after the suspects gunned down Sebastian, they took four M-16 Armalite rifles, a .45 cal. pistol and an M-203 grenade launcher from the mayor's four police escorts.

The suspects also took away a clutch bag containing P38,000, court records said.

Senior Supt. Nelson Nario, Isabela police director, said the provincial police has dropped politics as a motive in the killing after the filing of charges against the NPA rebels.

Sebastian, 53, was attacked at the lobby of the Jones town hall, shortly after he and other local government employees attended a flag-raising ceremony.

Police said 10 NPA rebels wearing military fatigues arrived at the town hall. Four of them approached and shot Sebastian. ***Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

'ARBITRARY, POLITICAL'

EO attaching Aurora to C. Luzon assailed

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO, Pampanga—Sen. Edgardo Angara, Aurora Rep. Bellaflor Angara-Castillo and Ricky Avanceña, grandson of the late President Manuel Quezon, sought the scrapping of the executive order that transferred Aurora to Central Luzon.

The order, issued by President Macapagal-Arroyo on May 17, divided Southern Tagalog into Region IV-A and Region IV-B and transferred Aurora to Central Luzon.

Under the order, Region IV-A, to be known as Calabarzon, comprises Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal and Quezon as well as Antipolo, Batangas, Cavite, Lipa, Lucena, San Pablo, Tagaytay, Tanauan and two other cities.

Region IV-B covers Mindoro Occidental and Oriental, Marinduque, Romblon and Palawan (Mimaropa) provinces as well as Calapan and Puerto Princesa cities.

The President cited the acceleration of social and economic development and the improvement in the delivery of public services to Southern Tagalog as reasons for the separation.

Angara, who hails from Aurora, called the order a "desecration of the historical, geographical and emotional ties of Aurora to the rest of Southern Tagalog, particularly Quezon province, but also of the memory of our first President, Manuel Quezon."

Aurora, the birthplace of the late President and his wife Doña Aurora Aragon, was a sub-province of Quezon until 1951. Formerly called El Principe, it was named after Quezon's wife. It evolved into a separate province in 1979.

The province, located on the eastern tip of Luzon and which faces the Pacific Ocean, is more accessible by land from Nueva Ecija, one of Central Luzon's provinces. It is one of the 20 poorest provinces in the country.

However, Angara said Aurora residents have "consistently and publicly" identified themselves with Quezon.

"What the President did in effect was to put Aurora's head in Central Luzon while the rest of its body remains in Southern Tagalog," he added, noting that Ms Macapagal failed to provide a "good reason" for the separation.

In a statement, Angara also accused Ms Macapagal of not consulting the leaders and residents of Aurora before she issued the order.

According to him, the annexation of the province to Central Luzon, the President's home region, reeks of "political motivation and opportunism."

Castillo, in a letter to the President, called as "erroneous" the assumption that Aurora has been poor because it belonged to Southern Tagalog.

The province, she said, has slowly crawled out of underdevelopment, having been included in the Calabarzon's sub-region project.

The province's development does "not rest on administrative jurisdiction over it but on the political will of the government to carry its development through," Castillo added.

The transfer, she noted, would "unduly affect the heritage, culture and identity of the people of Aurora."

Avanceña, son of Nini Quezon-Avanceña, the lone surviving child of Quezon, appealed for the immediate scrapping of the order.

"The Quezon family has been a staunch believer in electoral mandate and democratic consensus, in contrast to the unilateral and arbitrary decision-making at the Palace," he said.

₱100-M German grant boosts Visayas Sea conservation effort

By Ma. Diosa Labiste
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—Efforts to rehabilitate and protect the Visayan Sea, one of the biggest and most productive fishing grounds in the country, received a boost with the assistance of the German government.

Martin Mueller, regional director of the German Development Cooperation (Deutsche Gesellschaft fur Technische Zusammenarbeit or GTZ), said the grant is worth about P100 million and will finance equipment, training, studies, surveys and personnel or experts' support.

In a launching Wednesday, Iloilo Gov. Niel Tupas said the Germans' contribution to the Visayan Sea Coastal Resources and Fisheries Management Project (VisSea) would strengthen the coastal marine resources program undertaken by the Philippine government, the local government units (LGUs) and fishing communities along the shores of the Visayas Sea.

Negros Occidental Rep. Alfredo Marañon said the VisSea project could benefit from the models as well as trials and successes of some coastal communities or LGUs that have attempted to rehabilitate their coastal marine resources.

The GTZ will implement the rehabilitation project in cooperation with concerned governments mainly the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) and the LGUs. The project, with two phases, will start this year and will end in 2002.

The equipment acquired during the project implementation would be donated to the agencies and the LGUs once the project is completed.

Sonia Seville, BFAR director in Western Visayas, said the German government through its ambassador, Herbert Jess, showed interest in supporting the VisSea after learning of impact of the project on the fishing communities.

According to the Fisheries Philippine Profile in 1999, the Visayan Sea has been identified as one of the biggest and most productive fishing grounds in the country.

But the destruction of fishing grounds is a major problem in the Visayan Sea. Among the destructive practices were the use of fine-mesh nets, trawling, agricultural chemical run-offs, deforestation, erosion and siltation that destroy the habitat of fish and other marine life.

The Visayan Seas covers an area of approximately 10,000 square kilometers and is at the center of the Philippine archipelago. It is bounded by the southern coast of Masbate, northwestern coast of Cebu, northern coast of Negros Occidental and northeastern coast of Panay.

The area is rich in marine resources, especially pelagic fishes like Sardinella (e.g. *tuloy, tabagak, tamban*) Sillago (*aso-os*), Rastrelliger (*hasa-hasa*) and Selaroides (scad or *dalimu-os*).

With a production of nearly 89,000 metric tons (1995) or 11.3 percent of the total Philippine production, the Visayan Sea was the most productive municipal fishing ground in the country.

With 120,000 metric tons or 13.5 percent of the total Philippine production, it was the third most productive commercial fishing ground in the country.

More than a thousand commercial fishing boats and about 13,500 motorized and non-motorized bancas are operating in the Visayan Sea. Aside from fishing, fish processing thrives.

Despite the rich resources offered by the Visayan Sea, poverty abounds in the fishing communities, a survey of the Asian Development Bank showed.

The average annual income of a household is P45,000, which is below the national poverty line of P53,000. The average catch of households is 2-3 kilos. Social services are weak in coastal communities, schools are scare and basic health services are usually non-existent.

There are too few opportunities for employment in coastal communities. Fishing is often the last resort of livelihood for the poor who have neither land nor assets.

Recline. Relax. And read about life's ups and downs.
We've got everything on the changing economy, labor forces and market issues.
Not to mention most of the country's businessmen who listen to what we have to say.
BUSINESS INQUIRER

Opposition takes Senate

From page A1

tration senators were holed up in the sixth-floor office of Drilon.

The administration lawmakers questioned the quorum of the Pimentel-led session.

Pimentel said he was designated by those present to call the session to order, noting that in the absence of Drilon, Senate President Pro Tempore Manuel Villar and Senate Majority Leader Loren Legarda-Leviste, he was the "only Senate officer (left) in the structure of Senate leadership."

He invoked "absolute necessity for the Senate to continue with its functions" as his reason for calling the session to order.

Sen. Vicente Sotto III then nominated Sen. Blas Ople as "presiding officer."

"That's a rump Senate they have downstairs," said Arroyo. There should be at least 13 senators present for a session to have a quorum, he said.

"Everything they do is void *ab initio* (from the beginning)," he added.

"We are the legal Senate," he later told the INQUIRER. "They are the illegal Senate."

Switching sides

Osmeña, an administration senator during the term of then President Joseph Estrada, pledged his vote for Senate President to Drilon last July, in exchange for keeping his chairmanship of the powerful finance committee.

Yesterday, Osmeña switched back to the opposition, saying the administration coalition had failed to "exercise its constitutional role of check and balance and to protect the tradition of independence of the Senate."

He said the Senate had been unsuccessful in "checking the corrupt practices of the executive department, addressing the shortfall of government and providing policy directions."

He also blamed President Macapagal-Arroyo for what he said was a leadership vacuum.

"With the President in a full-blown campaign effort, there is a lack of leadership in the government," he said.

In last night's reorganization, Osmeña retained his chairmanship of the finance committee. But he also assumed the chairmanship of the energy committee, which had been previously held by administration Sen. Renato Cayetano.

Last month, Osmeña had taken Cayetano to task for failing to summon former President Fidel Ramos to testify on the controversial contracts with independent power producers. Yesterday, he cited Cayetano's failure as one of the reasons for switching sides.

The Constitution provides that the Senate President should be elected by a majority vote of all its members—that is, by at least 13 votes. But it also provides that "a majority of each House shall constitute a quorum to do business." With Revilla still abroad, the 12 opposition senators constitute the majority.

Talking to reporters, Osmeña even upped the ante, claiming Drilon was now unsure about Revilla's status.

He also chided the "erstwhile majority" for boycotting last night's session, saying, "the day will come when they have to come down."

"What? Do they want to rot there?" he said.

Whirl of confusion

Yesterday afternoon started in a whirl of confusion after Osmeña joined the opposition bloc in a news conference where Pimentel announced the reorganization of the Senate.

A resolution had earlier been circulated calling for the declaration of all positions in the Senate committees, as well as those in the Commission on Appointments, the Judicial Bar Council and the Senate Electoral Tribunal vacant.

The resolution, with 12 signatures, effectively set off the reorganization but left Drilon in place. Those who closed ranks around Drilon were Senators Villar, Legarda, Arroyo, Cayetano, Ralph Recto, Francis Pangilinan, Robert Barbers, Noli de Castro, Ramon Magsaysay Jr. and Juan Flavier.

In Malacañang, the official reaction was one of cautious optimism.

The coup in the Senate was just "part of democratic politics," acting Press Secretary Silvestre Afable Jr. said. "We have to live with that."

He said the Palace was still confident the Senate would pass Malacañang-certified bills based on their merits. "I don't want to believe that once you have a situation such as this, you lose all hope for your bills."

"This will be a matter for political negotiation. These are leaders of principle. It would be easy to convince them on the basis of (a bill's) merits," he added.

He expressed a similar sense of guarded optimism about Osmeña's switching sides. "It doesn't mean that when they go from one side of the political fence to the other, they are opposed to every move of the government."

In a follow-up press statement, Afable added: "We have worked very closely with Senate President Franklin Drilon. And he has consistently supported the legislative priorities of this administration."

House reaction

In the House, pro-administration congressmen expressed surprise at the reorganization and said the impending election of John Osmeña as Senate President did not augur well for the administration.

Osmeña, according to Lakas Rep. Jun Lozada, is "really a minority (member) at heart."

Lozada, Lakas vice president for international relations, said there was no hint of the reorganization during the national directorate meeting of the ruling party in Malacañang last Saturday when the President was formally elected as party chair.

"It will affect the legislative agenda of the administration because he will have his own agenda," Lozada said.

Deputy Speaker Raul Gonzalez said having Osmeña at the Senate helm would upset the President's legislative agenda.

"First it will affect the agreement between Drilon and Cayetano, whether or not he will honor that agreement come December," Gonzalez said. "But I think this kind of situation will make the Senate more unstable."

He added: "Sonny O is not totally sold on the administration; he's more of a maverick. Drilon is more reliable for the administration but he is suffering from his association with Angara."

Batanes Rep. Florencio Abad, president of the Liberal Party, said the Senate coup was "not a good sign" as it came just after the President assumed the chairmanship of Lakas.

"And therefore the President had to look at it and see the implications on her leadership," Abad said.

He said the President had to have good working relationship with the two chambers if she wanted to push through her legislative agenda.

"But with the Senate now dominated by the opposition, that is certainly a problem for the President," he said.

Gonzalez ruled out a coup in the House, saying, "the leadership is quite stable here."

Even Abad, who challenged Speaker Jose de Venecia for the speakership, said the dynamics in the Senate were different because of the small number of votes in contention.

"In the Senate, you deal with personalities. Here, you have to talk to blocs," Abad said. ***With reports from Juliet Javellana and Dona Pazzibugan***

US troops move into war zone

From page A1

Donald Rumsfeld.

Even Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes saw no need to hurry. "If the situation calls for it, then we will have it . . . We'll pick it from there," he said.

Both Reyes and Wolfowitz said that involving US troops in combat was out of the question.

"We are not talking of sending in US troops to do the job of the Armed Forces of the Philippines but on improving its capability to do the job itself," Wolfowitz said.

Reyes said the Filipino soldiers would still do the fighting. "The American soldiers are here to assist and advise and participate in the training, so that we can better handle the terrorist threat. After that, we will do it ourselves," he said.

Although fully armed, members of the US Special Forces training Filipino soldiers can fire only in self-defense.

From Manila, Wolfowitz flew to Western Mindanao to visit the American troops.

In a radio interview, Ms Macapagal said she favored deploying US troops closer to the frontlines to enable them to better train local soldiers.

"If they (Americans) go down to the company level, I think the (training exercises) would be all the more effective," she said.

Several lawmakers and militant groups could only shake their heads at the Macapagal administration's move to give US troops a more active role in its campaign against local terrorists.

"(*Sabi na nga ba, eh*) We told you so," said Nathanael Santiago, secretary general of the party-list group Bayan Muna. "We were taken for a ride all along."

Santiago said that US and Philippine officials were playing out their "grand design to its ultimate conclusion—the prolonged stay and stationing of US troops in the country."

Senators Aquilino Pimentel Jr., Gregorio Honasan and Rodolfo Biazon voiced apprehensions that the Macapagal administration might be violating the terms of reference of the RP-US Balikatan exercises as well as the Constitution.

The exercises, which began in February and are scheduled to end next month, represent Washington's biggest troop deployment in the war on terror after Afghanistan.

"We will be open to all kinds of possibilities, not just with respect to (the joint military campaign), but with respect to the larger peace and order problems in this country," Wolfowitz said when asked if some US military advisers would stay behind.

US President George W. Bush has emphasized that the war against terror is going to be a long process, Wolfowitz said.

But he added: "I would like to emphasize that whatever specific steps that we decide to do, or decide not to do, it is a mistake to focus too much on any one detail, or even as I said last time, even (on) one small island." ***Reports from Dona Pazzibugan, Martin P. Marfil, Cynthia D. Balana, AP, AFP and Reuters***

Alvarez bypassed; new Piatco deal seen

From page A1

ing that Loesch was dismissed as consultant because he was also consulting for Philippine Airlines and the MIA/Naia Association of Service Organizations (Maso), the main opposer of Alvarez's confirmation.

German consultant

Loesch testified that he had attended various important meetings for Fraport, the German investor in Piatco. In one such meeting, he said, he was informed of details of a consultancy agreement that was signed between Piatco and Liongson.

In his affidavit which he read before the CA, Loesch said he was told that the money that was going to be paid to Liongson "would possibly be used to pay off certain Philippine officials with respect to certain government approvals that had to be obtained for Piatco."

Loesch said he also met thrice with Climaco in February. He claimed that Climaco told him that Johannes Endler, Fraport's chief financial officer, confirmed to her in Malacañang, in the presence of Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo and Presidential Legal Counsel Avelino Cruz, that Alvarez was paid substantial amounts of money by Piatco.

He volunteered to appear before the CA, he said, because he believed that Alvarez indeed received illegal payments.

He said his appearance was in compliance with German laws requiring that knowledge of circumstances involving graft and corrupt practices must be reported immediately to government authorities, lest one is accused of conspiring in the commission of a crime.

Under questioning from Senators Loren Legarda and Robert Barbers, however, Loesch said he could not identify the Piatco official who gave the money or, indeed, how much it was.

He admitted that he had only been told by a friend about the alleged payoff.

Speaking to Senate reporters, Alvarez denounced Loesch's testimony as "not only hearsay but double hearsay."

"As he (Loesch) said, he did not have any personal knowledge of the alleged payoff and that he was only told about it by a friend who, in turn, got wind of it," the secretary said.

"My oppositors (sic) have resorted to this dirty tactic as a last desperate effort—fair or foul. I have already effectively answered all the charges and calumnies they have hurled against me," Alvarez also said in a statement.

"They have resorted to importing a foreigner to help them do their dirty work. He is, of course, telling lies like the rest of my detractors," he said.

New appointment

Afable said Alvarez would get a new appointment even in the face of unresolved questions.

"Secretary Alvarez was chosen on the basis of his professional qualifications and the President cannot easily let go of him because of this controversy," he said. "As of now, there is no search in the works for his replacement."

In his regular press briefing, Afable said Climaco would appear before lawmakers once she returns from the United States.

"She has already given the assurance that once she comes back, she will be testifying," Afable said. "She is now willing to testify before the Senate."

Afable also said Malacañang wanted to see a renegotiation of the contract. "We hope that this thing can be renegotiated to accommodate important provisions in the public's interest."

He noted that Piatco had disagreed with Climaco's proposed changes, which include a review of the $20 terminal fee to be levied on passengers.

"We do not know if this will go into a renegotiation of those provisions," he said. "If a renegotiation proceeds, that is only the time when the Office of the President will be involved in this issue because if there is a new contract, it will go up and the President will be the one to approve or disapprove it."

Afable did not make any categorical comment on the 28 proposed changes except to say that Piatco had opposed them and "those are the facts as they stand now."

"The facts are like these. Presidential adviser Climaco was given the mandate to examine this contract and along with this mandate, she also had the mandate to submit these findings to Piatco," Afable said.

"It will take both sides to agree to a renegotiation. You know, this project has gone on for such a long time. It is not simply a matter of getting this piece of paper and making it into another piece of paper," he added.

Ethics committee

Meanwhile, a town mayor has asked the House ethics committee to bar Palawan Rep. Vicente Sandoval from participating and voting in the confirmation hearings of Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez for conflict of interest.

Mayor Pacifico Mayor of Ferrol, Romblon, secretary general of the League of Municipalities of the Philippines, said in a letter to committee chair Rep. Antonio Abaya that Sandoval had publicly admitted to being a commercial fishing operator.

"What we cannot understand is that those who have a vested interest in commercial fishing would use their position in the Commission on Appointments to block the confirmation of a public official who has stood steadfast on DAO (Department Administrative Order) 17 which was designed for the common good and to implement the Fisheries Code," Mayor said.

DAO 17 provides the mechanism for municipalities to establish their jurisdictional boundaries for preferential use of municipal and marginal fishermen.

Mayor said Sandoval's opposition was fueled by "vested interests" because his operations would be affected by DAO 17.

Sandoval is vice chair of the CA. ***With reports from Norman Bordadora and Juliet Javellana***

PNP chief sacks entire Pasay force

From page A1

day said in her weekly radio talk show that the policemen who might have shot and killed the child would be punished.

"I want to assure you that we will give justice to your boy, and those who caused his death will be punished," she told the mother, Salvacion Balala, who was invited to the radio program.

Speaking out for the first time since the incident that horrified TV viewers, Pasay Mayor Wenceslao "Peewee" Trinidad came to the defense of Supt. Eduardo de la Cerna whom NCRPO chief Deputy Director General Edgardo Aglipay had immediately relieved of his post as Pasay police chief.

"In fairness to the person, if you look at his record these past several months up to the incident, (you will see that) we had crime-less nights," Trinidad told radio station dzBB. "In fairness to his administration, this is what he did. *Sumablay lang dito* (He just faltered in this incident)."

The mayor took a swipe at the PNP leadership, saying he hoped "they don't run from the responsibility."

"They should face it," he said, adding that he learned of the hostage-taking incident hours after it ended.

"It's their man, after all, and not mine. Now they are pointing fingers? *Nakakahiya sila* (They're shameful)," he said.

Trinidad also disclaimed responsibility for the incident.

"They say they will charge me," he said in reference to reports quoting human rights groups as saying the family of the dead boy could sue the Pasay mayor for damages. "But isn't the President commander in chief? They should clean up the situation rather than point fingers. Let's investigate first."

Couldn't handle it

"It was a very simple matter and yet they could not handle it," Mendoza told reporters, lamenting that this was the first such hostage-taking incident handled by the police that ended in tragedy.

"We are not taking this sitting down," he said. "This is a very serious concern for us because we want to see an efficient and effective police reaction to any crime in the country."

Aglipay said that as proposed by PNP Human Resources Director Florencio Fianza, station commanders in Metro Manila would also undergo a refresher seminar on the rules of engagement and crisis management on Saturday.

But Chief Supt. Jose Gutierrez, director of the Southern Police District, suggested that the Pasay police should not be blamed entirely for what had happened.

Gutierrez said the designated shooter had two opportunities to "take out" Talvo but failed because a TV crew trained a camera on him and then a person crossed his line of vision.

The shooter also had difficulty taking aim at Talvo because he was mobile, Gutierrez said.

De la Cerna himself declared that he "did not commit any lapses."

"I did my best. I gave orders to my men to neutralize (Talvo), but they did not," he said.

De la Cerna also said he had instructed members of the media not to cross the police barricade, to no avail.

"Some complied, some did not," he said, adding that he did not authorize GMA-7 reporter Michael Fajatin, who was seen on camera addressing Talvo, to negotiate with the hostage taker.

Deputy Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr., head of the National Anti-Crime Commission's anti-kidnapping task force, proposes that reporters on the police beat also be made to undergo a seminar on hostage-crisis management.

Kidney and heart

At the command conference, Director Jose Marlowe Pedregoza, chief of the PNP Crime Laboratory, confirmed reports that Balala died from stab and bullet wounds.

Citing autopsy results, he said that of the five stab wounds and five bullet wounds that the boy suffered, two were fatal—a stab wound in the kidney and a bullet wound in the heart.

Pedregoza also said Talvo had tested positive for use of shabu or methamphetamine hydrochloride, according to results of a blood test.

Gutierrez said Talvo had been on the police watch list of suspected drug pushers. Earlier, however, Talvo's relatives said he was a simple farmer who had no record of misbehavior in his village in San Mateo, Isabela.

Mendoza also directed Gutierrez to verify reports that the policemen at the scene had come from the East Asia nightclub on Roxas Boulevard and were drunk.

De la Cerna said the policemen had gone to the nightclub to conduct an operation in connection with the Commission on Election's gun ban in the run-up to the synchronized Sangguniang Kabataan and barangay elections on July 15.

"I saw my men, they were not drunk," he said.

Police officials announced they would conduct a reenactment of the hostage drama. Various PNP units are conducting separate investigations on the administrative and criminal liability as well as operational lapses of the policemen at the scene.

Lobbying

Mayor Trinidad admitted that he had lobbied for De la Cerna's designation as Pasay chief of police despite the latter's failure to attend the PNP's Officer Senior Executive Course.

The eight-month training course is a requirement for senior police officers, especially station commanders.

"*Aaminin ko, ako'ng lumakad dyan* (I admit I lobbied for him)," Trinidad said. "He had been deputy for a long time and I had long wanted to have a Pasay native as chief of police."

De la Cerna, who was to retire in two weeks, assumed the post last year in place of Supt. Alejandro Gutierrez despite objections based on his lack of credentials.

But Trinidad said the matter of De la Cerna's lack of credentials was "the problem of the PNP."

"That is not my problem," the mayor declared. "Are they avoiding responsibility? If he is not qualified, why did they assign him there? Even if I insisted, if he is not qualified, why was he assigned there?"

Trinidad also appealed for the transfer of control of the police back to the mayors.

"I have been advocating that for a long time now, ever since the time of President (Ferdinand) Marcos," he said. "Nothing has happened."

He said he had recommended to the Pasay city council to pass an ordinance on safety in bus terminals.

"Bus companies are now like airline companies. They need to install their own security measures," he said.

P5 million

Sen. Robert Barbers, chair of the Senate committee on public order, yesterday filed a resolution directing the PNP and the Department of the Interior and Local Government to indemnify Balala's family in the amount of P5 million.

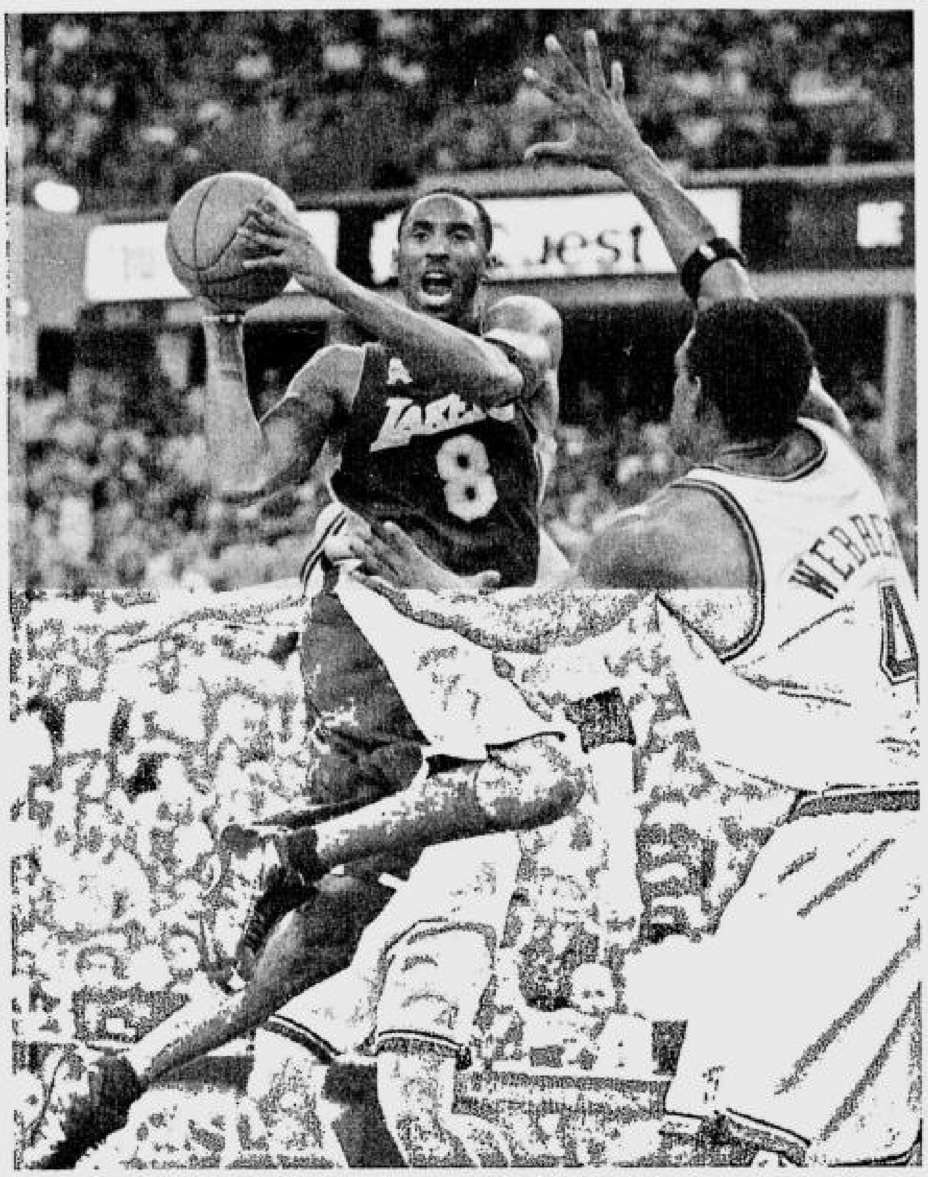
Nine senators—Edgardo Angara, Teresa Oreta, Robert Jaworski, Vicente Sotto, Blas Ople, Panfilo Lacson, Luisa Ejercito, Aquilino Pimentel Jr. and Sergio Osmeña III—also signed a resolution calling for an investigation of the boy's killing.

"The death of Dexter Balala, being clearly the result of the ineptness and incompetence of the police, is the responsibility of the leadership of the (PNP) and for which the family of the boy should be indemnified," the resolution read in part.

Barbers said his committee would look into the matter despite Congress' being in recess. ***With reports from Dona Z. Pazzibugan, Rocky Nazareno***

NBA FINALS THURSDAY

Lakers beat Kings in OT, enter finals



THE LAKERS' Bryant (8) looks for the open man as he drives to the basket against the Kings' Chris Webber in Game 7 of the NBA Western Conference finals. The Lakers won, 112-106, in overtime. AP

SACRAMENTO, California—The two-time defending NBA champion Los Angeles Lakers were pushed further than they've been pushed in the playoffs in three years—into overtime on the road in Game 7 of the conference finals.

Shaquille O'Neal and Derek Fisher came through for the Lakers on a night when Kobe Bryant didn't make a field goal in the fourth quarter or overtime, sending the Lakers to the NBA championship round with a 112-106 victory over the Sacramento Kings yesterday.

In a Game 7 every bit as good as the series it concluded, the Lakers were the team with more poise when money time arrived.

O'Neal, Fisher and Bryant combined to go 8-for-8 from the foul line in overtime, while Sacramento couldn't put a point on the board in the final two minutes.

Bad shots, bad passes, bad decisions—those were about the only things the Kings did well in an extra session that went the Lakers' way and gave coach Phil Jackson his 27th consecutive playoff series victory.

The Lakers will defend their title beginning Wednesday night (Thursday in Manila) and will be heavy favorites against the New Jersey Nets, a team with little experience in the spotlight.

O'Neal, Bryant and their teammates have shown they can thrive when the pressure is at its highest, and yesterday's overtime was another example.

O'Neal finished with 35 points, 13 rebounds and four blocks, while Bryant had a quiet 30 as he scored only four points in the final 17 minutes—all on free throws.

Bryant's final two from the line gave the Lakers a six-point lead with 6.4 seconds remaining. The game ended with Webber bobbling an inbound pass. **AP**

NBA Finals Schedule

Game 1 (Thur) June 6	New Jersey @ LA Lakers	9a.m.
Game 2 (Sat) June 8	New Jersey @ LA Lakers	9a.m.
Game 3 (Mon) June 10	LA Lakers @ New Jersey	8:30a.m.
Game 4 (Thur) June 13	LA Lakers @ New Jersey	9a.m.
Game 5*(Sat) June 15	LA Lakers @ New Jersey	9a.m.
Game 6*(Tue) June 18	New Jersey @ LA Lakers	9a.m.
Game 7*(Thur) June 20	New Jersey @ LA Lakers	9a.m.

*—If Necessary

The art of predicting

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

I CHOSE the Lakers over the Kings for three reasons. One, they have Phil Jackson as coach. Two, they have championship experience. And three, they have The Shaq & Kobe Show.

Remove any one of those and the Sacramento Kings might be in the NBA Finals by now.

But as it is, the Lakers are on to their search for a third straight NBA crown after they outlasted the Kings, 112-106, in overtime yesterday in Sacramento. Not to brag but my three reasons for a Laker victory were all in play in Game 7 of the Western Conference Finals.

It's not bad to predict. A lot of people do that. Our propensity to predict is one of mankind's favorite pastimes.

But if we have to predict at all, we have to back it up with hard facts. Using the heart alone won't help. The brain should be in command at all times. As one saying goes: "Bet with your wallet, not with your heart."

Further, if you use your heart in making a prediction, you tend to be emotional. Thus, if your prediction does not come true, chances are you become hysterical. You lose sight of the facts. Your objectivity gets muddled.

Whereas if you use your brain—meaning you come up with a fact-based analysis employing facts—it won't hurt you at all if your prediction flops.

In short, the trick is to first study all angles. Look for the strong points, weak points, of both protagonists. Predicting without analyzing is like shooting from the hip. It will lead you to nowhere. If you say "I'm for the Lakers because they are my favorite team" or "I'm for the Kings because my mother lives in Sacramento right now," you're not predicting. That's dictating, meaning allowing your heart to dictate on you.

Basketball is very much different from love. It does need a lot of heart, yes, but before that, the brain has got to work first.

And if you say "the referees won it for the Lakers," you are into blaming mode and never in the mood of accepting reality.

There is a time to blame, but there is also a time to buy. In the issue at hand, if you wouldn't buy fact and elect to select fiction, then I'll let you wallow in your own stupidity. After all, this is a free world.

Let me now illustrate the three major reasons why the Lakers advanced to the Finals once more.

Jackson's cunning was shown to the hilt yesterday when he rested Shaquille O'Neal with still plenty of time left in overtime. Confidence. Jackson knew he had it in the bag when he pulled out his Big Fella with still some 15 ticks left, Lakers up, 110-106. Before his exit, Shaq sank two free throws for a 108-106 Laker lead after tying the game at 106 on a jumper. Who said Shaq couldn't shoot free throws? And pressure-packed free throws at that.

The Lakers weren't exactly brilliant all throughout yesterday. But their championship savvy as exemplified by the heads-up play of Shaq and Kobe's teammates carried them through in the end. Patience. That's one facet of a team rich in experience. The Lakers have tons of that.

And yes, if the Cascades had their Sixties hit in The Punch & Judy Show, the Lakers have their Millennium blockbuster in The Shaq & Kobe Show.

Need I say more?

Kutitap stuns La Salle; Blu stops Shark

GAMES TOMORROW *(Makati Coliseum)*
3 p.m.—ICTSI-La Salle vs Shark
5 p.m.—Ateneo-Hapee vs Kutitap

By Dennis U. Eroa

KUTITAP Toothpaste survived ICTSI-La Salle, 65-63, while Blu Sun Power subdued Shark Energy Drink, 61-58, last night in the PBL Chairman's Cup at the Makati Coliseum.

The Sparklers went scoreless in the first seven minutes of the final period, but gained the crucial hits from Mark Saquilayan to frustrate the rallying Green Archers in a roller-coaster match.

Earlier, Tristan Codamon and Lou Gatumbato shone in the homestretch as the Detergent Kings sent the Energy Drink Kings crashing to their fifth straight loss in the semis.

Kutitap, Blu and ICTSI-La Salle are now tied in second place with identical 10-6, win-loss cards, making the race for the two finals slots as close as it can be. Ateneo-Hapee-Negros Navigation, which drew a rest day, is on top with a 10-5 record.

Nino Gelig, Allan Salangsang and Francis Mercado powered Kutitap to a huge 32-14 second-half lead, but La Salle tightened its defense to come back in style.

Willy Wilson's putback made it 59-61, and a JP Sison's error gave the Green Archers the opportunity to equalize. The referee, however, whistled Wilson with an offensive foul while exploiting a mismatch in the shaded lane which led to two free throws by Saquilayan, 63-59, 42 seconds left.

BLU 61— Codamon 16, Latoreno 10, Legaspi 8, Dimaunahan 7, De la Cuesta 6, Gatumbato 5, Calo 5, Machica 4, Santos 4.

SHARK 58—Sotto 15, Junio 14, Caceres 11, Castro 8, Cole 2, Rodriguez 2, Vergara 2, Basilides 2, Bravo 2, Ortega 0.

Quarters: 14-14, 26-28, 42-41, 61-58

KUTITAP 65— Gelig 15, Salangsang 11, Saquilayan 11, Mercado 8, Baguio 7, Rivera 5, Sison 3, Natividad 3, Dy 2.

ICTSI-La Salle 63—Cortez 17, Wilson 16, Yap 8, Uy 5, Zamora 4, Franco 3, Omolon 2, Cuan 2, Sta. Maria 2, Ramos 2, Lanete 2, Magsumbol 0.

Quarters: 24-14, 41-29, 57-49, 65-63

Villanueva MVP leader

ATENEO-Hapee-Negros Navigation's Enrico Villanueva still leads in the race for the Most Valuable Player award of the ongoing 2002 PBL Chairman's Cup at the Makati Coliseum. Villanueva has 544 SPs after topping the statistics with 394 plus a bonus of 150 points on won games. He still leads in scoring with 17.1 points, ranks second in rebounds with 8.9 aside from 1.3 blocks per game. Villanueva's teammates Celino Cruz and Rich Alvarez are in fourth and fifth with similar 416 SPs.

RCPI's Hugnatan is MBA hero

REYNEL Hugnatan of the RCPI Negros Slashers has been voted the MBA Press Corps Hardcourt Hero in the just-concluded First Conference series.

The 6-foot-4 power forward helped power the Slahers to the championship via a 3-0 victory over the LBC Batangas Blades.

Hugnatan was unstoppable as he tallied 26 points and 11 rebounds in Game 3. He did the most damage in the second and third quarters by hitting 10 points in each.

His points in the second quarter kept the Slashers in the contest, but his back-to-back baskets early in the third quarter gave the Slashers the lead for the first time, 51-49, which they never relinquished.

Hugnatan also excelled on defense by grabbing crucial rebounds. But his most crucial defensive stance was when he drew the sixth and final foul from Blades main man Eddie Laure, 3:13 left in the game.

Hugnatan compiled a series average of 19.0 points and 10.3 rebounds. He had 13 points and 12 rebounds in Game 1 (89-80) and 18 points and eight rebounds in Game 2 (75-68), both held in the friendly confines of the University of Saint La Salle (USLS) Coliseum in Bacolod City.

Italian coach: China 20 pts ahead of RP 5

MILAN, Italy—Italy crushed the Selecta-Philippine team, 99-56, Saturday night as the Filipinos opened their European stint on a sour note at the Palalido Milano stadium.

After the game, Italian team manager Caludio Silvestri: "At this stage, China is about 20 points ahead of the Philippines. It's not too late to bring the gap closer but it will take a lot of hard work in offense, ball control and defense."

The Italians greeted the Filipinos with a 15-0 blast and never wavered behind their deadly three-point shooting and crippling full-court press that forced the Filipinos to commit 25 turnovers.

Burying 11 of 15 triples, the Italians shot 63 percent from the field and dominated the boards against the smaller Filipinos.

Danny Seigle scored 11 points in the fourth quarter to lead the Filipinos with 17, while Eric Menk added eight points. Asi Taulava poured in six points in the first quarter but was held scoreless the rest of the way.

Andre Pecille, who played in the Sydney Olympics, topscored for Italy with 22 points even as five other Italians chipped in double digits.

The Filipinos play the Latvians in the four-nation Selecta RP-Euro Basketball Challenge at the Sondrio Sports Hall today.

ITALY 99—Pecile 22, Righetti 16, Lama 11, Santarossa 11, Zaocheti 10, Rosatti 10, Mian 6, Rotella 6, Michelori 3, Tonolli 2, Rombaldoni 2, Moti 0, Vanozzo 0.

PHILIPPINES 56—Seigle 17, Menk 8, Racela 6, Taulava 6, Cariaso 4, Pennisi 4, Espino 4, Fernandez 3, Hatfield 2, Duremdes 2, Jackson 0, Hontiveros 0.

Skeptics want Espinosa go quietly into the sunset

By Percival D. Della

SACRAMENTO — "He just won't fold the hand," the late sportswriting giant Jim Murray would have written of Luisito Espinosa on the night of May 23rd.

That's when the Filipino boxer blazed the comeback trail with a second round knockout of Colombian "bridesmaid" Ever Beleno at The Tank in San Jose.

But the skeptics would prefer that the 34-year-old Espinosa go quietly into the sunset. Nice try, but no cigar.

When he lost both his world featherweight and bantamweight titles, Luisito may have gone into an emotional tailspin. Yet never did he drown his sorrows in booze, nicotine or other drugs.

Luisito's current manager, Noel Rivera, son of Espinosa's first handler Hermie, said that for the comeback fight, Luisito was fit as a fiddle.

"He was more fit in both body and spirit than when he was a champion," said Noel.

World champion

The former world champion more than made up for a year's absence from the ring.

He ran six miles a day. He trained in the gym 4-5 times a week and gradually worked his way up to sparring 24 rounds per week against scrappy boxers.

Sometimes he sparred with his trainer, Danovis "Dee" Pooler. Pooler is a world-class kickboxer/boxer with excellent boxing knowledge.

Noel said Espinosa was so razor-sharp during the first Budweiser boxing card at the Tank that his charge did not care who he was facing.

So when he blasted Beleno out of the 408 area code in no time, the crowd of 4,200 or so roared its approval. Among the fans was World Boxing Council super-welterweight champion Oscar de la Hoya.

De La Hoya should be a good judge of a credible boxer. He knows that boxing is a game of timing and opportunity. So when Beleno stuck his chin out in the second round, Espinosa cracked it like an egg.

If he was unimpressed, the Golden Boy would have demurred promising the stars to Espinosa.

An unabashed Luisito fan, De la Hoya who promoted the Tank fight, forged a connection with Noel Rivera. He said he would try to match Luisito with reigning world featherweight champion Johnny Tapia.

A WBC title go for the world junior-welterweight title vacated by Floyd Mayweather Jr. also is in Oscar's plans.

Televised fight

Meantime, ESPN, America's sports channel, has sent feelers for a televised fight featuring Luisito.

Normally, as De la Hoya did, boxing followers would rave about a win.

But because of his triumph over Beleno, it is now open season on Luisito.

"The crabs in the basket," according to Noel Rivera, are saying Beleno was a crapshoot, having lost seven of his last eight fights.

But the crabs should know better. That the perils of boxing are plenty, especially when facing a fighter with 38 wins, 35 of them knockouts. If Jim Murray were alive today, he would call the hard-luck Beleno a bridesmaid that is still to catch the bouquet.

Beleno failed twice to win a world crown. He went the distance with two outstanding world champions. He lost on a 12th-round TKO to Tom "Boom Boom" Johnson for the IBF featherweight crown in England in 1996. He succumbed on points to Yong-Kyun Park in a 12-round WBA featherweight championship in Seoul in 1992.

In his latest fight, the Colombian gave Yoni Vargas fits until he was too spent to answer the bell in the sixth round of a California state lightweight championship last February.

By the way, Luisito himself lost three of six prior fights. In his last defeat, a fourth round TKO to Augie Sanchez in January 2001, Espinosa looked like a worn out penny in the ring.

But Luisito had risen from the brink, or so it seems. And that's all that matters. For now, that is.

FILE PHOTO

ESPINOSA: ESPN fight in the offing.

SPORTSWATCH

NBA magazines now at bookstores

THE 2002 NBA Finals issue and a 20-page special on Kobe Bryant, both published by Tower Sports, are now up for sale at magazine shops and leading bookstores. Edited by Henry Liao, the finals issue contains a look at the top playoff contenders for this year's NBA title as well as this season's top individual performers. Also featured is Chinese prospect Yao Ming, the Top 50 players in history without an NBA title, and the continuation of the series on the 50 greatest players focusing on Hakeem Olajuwon, Rick Barry and Dolph Schayes.

Rep. Angping new Asaphil president

THE AMATEUR Softball Association of the Philippines (Asaphil) has elected Rep. Harry Angping new Asaphil president. The new Board announced preparations for Philippine participation in three international events in the latter half of the year. Angping said Asaphil will try to recapture the old glory of the sport by strengthening its grassroots program, popularizing softball in schools and communities and introducing a commercial softball league. The board is now composed of Marino Tancinco, director for Visayas; Greg Gumban Jimena, VP for Visayas; Lt. Col. Alan Arrojado, auditor; Filomeno Codinera, executive vice president; Luis Climaco, VP Mindanao; Dr. Ma. Liza Bupta, VP Luzon; Antonio Del Monte, Director for Luzon; and Joaquin Sarabia, director for Mindanao.

Lunas defends crown vs Makalibo

PHILIPPINE flyweight champion Rolly Lunas holds the championship belt that Tabaco City Mayor Alex Burce (right) is donating to the winner of the Lunas-Franklin Makalibo fight on June 22 in Tabaco City. The card will be promoted by Jun Sarreal and Eriberto "Loy" Berces, Jr.

LUNAS (left) and Burce.

Brazil hangs on to 2-1 win over Turkey

Goals by Ronaldo, Rivaldo save day for 4-time champs

YOKOHAMA, Japan—Ronaldo and Rivaldo saved Brazil with two second-half goals Monday, rallying the four-time World Cup champions to a hard-fought 2-1 victory over Turkey and averting a monumental upset.

It was a stuttering start for Brazil in Group C, but the South Americans will take it with Rivaldo scoring the winner on an 87th-minute penalty.

Injury-plagued Ronaldo, reasonably healthy for the first time in 2 1/2 years, got Brazil back into the match on a 50th-minute close-in volley off a long cross from Rivaldo. Hassan Sas gave Turkey –appearing in its first World Cup final in 48 years–a stunning 1-0 lead on a sharp-angled shot in first-half injury time.

Three-time champion Italy, also among the favorites in the World Cup finals and playing to high expectations at home, attempted in a late match Monday to get off on the right foot in its Group G opener against first-time qualifier Ecuador.

Good starts are critical in soccer's quadrennial showpiece.

No team has ever lost its opening game and won the World Cup, which is bad news for defending champion France, which fell 1-0 in its opener against Senegal on Friday.

Draws aren't much good either in curtain-raising matches in the world's most watched sporting event. That bodes ill for England after its 1-1 draw on Sunday against Sweden, a side it has not beaten in 34 year and 10 matches.

Only two teams have ever opened with draws and won the World Cup–one was England in 1966 and the other was Italy 20 years ago.

"When you start losing it's always extremely difficult," Rivaldo said after scoring Brazil's winner in Ulsan, South Korea. "But I had full confidence in my teammates that we would be able to turn the match around, as we did."

Turkey's coach Senol Gunes called the loss "an injustice" and said his determined side "gave away two goals we shouldn't have."

Spain and two-time champion Argentina started perfectly on Sunday with victories. And so did three-time champion Germany on Saturday. **AP**

BRAZIL'S Ronaldo (middle) scores a 50th minute equalizer against Turkey in Ulsan's Munsu Stadium. Brazil won, 2-1. AFP

Tañamor, Payla cop box golds

By Edwin Villanueva

ATHENS—The smaller ones produced the big ripples as Harry Tañamor and Violito Payla more than made up for Arlan Lerio's loss to give Team Caltex Philippines a couple of gold medals in the 2002 Acropolis Cup International Amateur Boxing Championships at the Platon Stadium here.

Tañamor, a bronze medalist in last year's world championship in Ireland, opened the Philippines' final-day drive on a high note, pocketing the lightflyweight (48-kg) title at the expense of Salim Salimov of Bulgaria, referee stopped contest (RSC-outclassed) in the third round.

And then Payla took the flyweight (51-kg) crown by outpointing Sebastien Gauthier of Canada, 22-10.

But Lerio was outfoxed by Artour Mikaelian of Greece, 15-6, preventing a 3-gold haul that could have made Team Caltex the best squad in the 17-country tournament.

Still, the Filipino fighters' 2-gold, 1-silver and 1-bronze output enabled them to land a close second to Hungary which finished just 1 bronze better.

The 2-gold production also mirrored the feat in this slugfest by Roel Velasco and Roberto Jalnaiz in 1992 and Lhyven Salazar and Rene Villaluz last year.

"Nasaktan yata sa mga jab at straight ko sa first round pa lang kaya di na gaanong lumaban yung Bulgarian," said the 23-year-old Tañamor, a Philippine Army private from Zamboanga City, who had also won a gold in the Chowdry Cup in Azerbaijan recently.

Payla, 23, also an Army Private, was equally awesome against Gauthier, whose nose was bloodied in the third round following a jarring left straight by the Filipino.

Against Mikaelian, who drew thunderous cheers from the hometown crowd, Lerio found an elusive foe who wisely clinched or danced around each time he connected against Lerio.

"Satisfied na rin tayo sa performance ng mga bata. Maganda na 'yan," said coach Patricio Gaspi of his wards.

Mandaluyong 9-cock derby starts today

THE CONFRONTATION of *sabong* heavyweights starts at 5 p.m. today as the "2002 Mandaluyong 9-Cock International Derby" second leg gets going at the Mandaluyong Coliseum. The sponsors are Pagcor, Casino Filipino-Parañaque, Sagupaan Super Feeds and Washout Shampoo.

The three-day cockfest (June 4, 6 and 8) will be hosted by Opmi president Vic Yu and Negros cocker Ramon Mansenares.

The defending champions—Jun Marasigan of Saipan and Batangas, Henry Tan, Boy de Roca and Commissioner Ashley Arayata—are expected to meet stiff opposition.

For inquiries, call 531-4003, 531-4005, 534-4110 and 535-2341.

SPORTSWATCH

Sorenstam posts another victory

AURORA, Illinois—No record seems safe from Annika Sorenstam. A little more than a year after shooting the first 59 in LPGA history, Sorenstam matched the best 54-score ever on the tour in winning the inaugural Kellogg-Keebler Classic on Sunday. Sorenstam fashioned a 21-under-par 195 with a sizzling finish to win by 11 strokes, the largest margin on the tour this year. So which was more surprising: 21 under or winning by 11? "You tell me," Sorenstam said. "Obviously, I'm very pleased with the way I have played this week. I could not have expected 21 under, especially when somebody asked what the winning score would be on Thursday and I said double digits. **AP**

Estes takes Kemper Open crown

POTOMAC, Maryland — On a breezy day that produced spectacular shots and costly miscues, Bob Estes won the Kemper Insurance Open with a steady round of 17 pars and one birdie. Estes' 1-undef 70 gave him an 11-under 273 total Sunday and a one-stroke victory over 1999 Kemper winner Rich Beem. Estes won for the fourth time on the PGA Tour, breaking the tournament's three-year streak of first-time winners. **AP**

Hewitt, Kuerten drop 4th round games

PARIS—Top-seeded Lleyton Hewitt and two-time defending champion Gustavo Kuerten were beaten at the French Open on Sunday in fourth-round upsets that ended a half-hour apart.

Hewitt, never the same after losing a 91-minute second set in a 15-13 tiebreaker, was ousted by 15th-seeded Guillermo Canas 6-7 (1), 7-6 (13), 6-4, 6-3.

Kuerten's 17-match winning streak at Roland Garros ended in a 6-4, 7-5, 6-4 setback to 20th-seeded Albert Costa.

U.S. Open champion Hewitt had 105 unforced errors, several followed by emotional outbursts–one time he swung his racket into a courtside pot of flowers–as Canas advanced to his first career Grand Slam quarterfinal.

Canas won the final six games of the match, then fell to the court in jubilation. He'd lost to Hewitt in a five-set match played over two days in last year's round of 16 at Roland Garros.

Canas won Sunday's marathon tiebreaker on his 10th set point, finally ending it with a crosscourt forehand winner.

"I think if I lose this, it's going to be tough. I had many chances. When I won that set, I felt I had a chance to beat him," Canas said.

Hewitt had five set points of his own in the second set but couldn't convert.

"I felt like if I could have gotten one of those and finished it off a bit quicker in the tiebreak, it could have been a totally different story," Hewitt said.

"It's getting that small advantage, that little edge out there. He was able to get it and I wasn't."

Canas will now play Costa for a spot in the semifinals.

Costa used a strong serve and consistent groundstrokes to earn his third quarterfinal appearance at the French Open.

Kuerten, who was seeded seventh, just returned to the tour in late April following February hip surgery and was trying to play himself into top shape.

"I'm not at the top of my game. He didn't let me play the way I'd like to," Kuerten said.

"He needs to believe again," Costa said. "He's trying but he doesn't look like that confident, not like two years ago or maybe last year." **AP**

Pierce, Seles gain q'finals at French Open

PARIS—Monica Seles and Mary Pierce missed the French Open last year because of injuries. Now they're back. And back in the quarterfinals.

They joined other familiar names Sunday in reaching the final eight–top-seeded Jennifer Capriati, Venus and Serena Williams, Jelena Dokic–along with some not so well-known ones–Clarisa Fernandez and Paola Suarez of Argentina.

"It's incredible. It's a bit unbelievable," said Pierce, the 2000 champion, who needed a wild card to get into this year's tournament. "As soon as I came here, I felt something special, something completely different. I love playing here, I'm at ease. I'm at home."

Seles, who won the last of her three French Open titles a decade ago, also showcased her skills in a 6-4, 7-5 fourth-round win over No. 11 Daniel Hantuchova. Pierce, bothered by a sore back last year and unable to defend her title, stopped No. 9 Silvia Farina Elia 6-1, 6-2. Each has the same assignment in the next round: Beat a Williams.

Seles next plays No. 2-seeded Venus Williams, who overpowered Chanda Rubin 6-3, 6-2. Pierce plays Serena Williams, who was in a bit of trouble until qualifier Vera Zvonareva began to wilt in the 90-degree heat, resulting in a 4-6, 6-0, 6-1 comeback win.

Seles, who has made it to at least the quarters in all 10 of her Roland Garros appearances, knows she'll have to lift her game.

She broke through against Venus Williams for the first time in the Australian Open quarterfinals, beating her for the first time in seven attempts. **AP**

Palaro begins . . .

From page A22

she confessed that she preferred spending money helping alleviate poverty to funding a grassroots sports development program like the Palaro. But that was when she was still vice president.

"Now that I'm the President, I realized that staging the Palaro is very important in teaching our youth the values of competitiveness, teamwork, honesty and fair play," Ms Arroyo said. "These values apply not only in sports but in life."

The remark came on the heels of near-suspension of this year's Palaro following the delay of release of the P36 million fund, which was part of the P56 million actual Palaro budget.

"Hosting the Palaro need not be expensive because we need not build new sports complexes every time we stage the Games," said the President while praising the renovated sports complex, the main stadium of which provides a spectacular view of the long dormant Mt. Isarog.

TAEKWONDO CHAMPS

Four of seven members of the Petron national taekwondo team who bagged gold medals in the recent Korean Open championships—Alexander Briones, Josephine Strachan, Loraine Lorelei Catalan and Criselda Roxas—proudly show their prizes with three other medal winners. From left are Briones silver medalist Sally Solis, Josephin Strachan, Catalan, Roxas, silver medalist Jasmin Strachan and bronze medalist Margaret Boyle. Not in picture are gold medalists Rudolfo Valenzuela Jr., Gerald Gregorio and Mary Grace Opinion.

Patnongon-Hagan rule Forest Hills Invitational

THE TANDEM of Larry Patnongon and Mary Hagan scored a two-day total of 121 points to emerge Class A champions in the The Forest Hills Invitational held recently at the Forest Hills Golf and Country Club.

Patnongon, 2002 Forest Hills Club champion, and Hagan, however, had to rely on their birdies via count-back to beat the duo of Ronnie Littaua and Manfred Guanko, who also finished with 121.

The four-day affair, Forest Hills' first member-guest golf tournament, was co-presented by Golforce Inc., and Taylor-Made-Adidas with MRT Dev. Co., AST Security Corp., Pisanti, Turf Company and Joey @92.3 as major backers.

Other supporters of the tournament were former Rep. Gilberto Duavit, CAP Group of Companies, Foodlink Inc., Fortune Tobacco, Gerry's Grill, Global Brands, Haagen-Dazs, Lipovitan, Primepower Manpower Services and Swatch Seasider.

Ferdinand Ho and Benrick Tan topped the class B division after firing a combined 124 points. Edgar Lee and Ricardo Silatorio made 119 to place second. The other winners were Francis Carpio and BJ Medalla in Class C and Andres Ugarte in the guest division.

Alabang leads close fight

A FOUR-CORNERED battle is expected when the final 18 holes of the Nokia Intervillage South tournament is played today with three slots to this year's Nokia Grand Intervillage at stake at the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club's west course. Only six Stableford points separate the top four teams after the first round played at Manila Golf on May 6 with Alabang 400 showing the way with 280 points followed by BF Homes' 276, Philamlife Las Piñas' 275 and Ayala Alabang's 274.

Tahanan Village, spearheaded by Paranaque Mayor Joey Marquez, is in fifth place at 268 with last year's winner Merville Park next at 266 and still capable of pulling off a big surprise in the popular golf tournament organized by Videocom in 1991. Aside from Nokia, the other sponsors of the event which culminates with the Nokia Grand Intervillage in November are PLDT, Planet Wine and More Gallery, Alaxan, ICTSI, Mastercard, Philippine Airlines, National Sports Grill, Pisanti, Mizuno, and Boracay 357.

1ST SILVER STA
HON. MAYOR TOBY TIANGCO
2002

WINNERS ALL

Members of the De La Salle-Lipa High School Batch '79 (top photo) pose with the Perpetual Trophy symbolic of their recent victory in the Silver Stallion Cup Golf at Club Malarayat. Among those shown are Br. Armin Luistro, Roel H. Mercado, Noel Altamirano, Choly Cabanban, Maj. Gerry Custodio and Vic Marquez. Above photo shows Navotas Mayor Toby Tiangco (third from right, kneeling) with the winners in the Navotas Invitational at Tagaytay Midlands. Standing (from left) are Samson Enriquez, Michael Chan Jr., Gerry Dee, Boy del Rosario, John Rey Tiangco, Jerry Vinzon, Comm. Victor Suarez, Jaime Caluag, Cdr. Richard Biteng, Joel Ignacio and Rolly Magat.

FOUR DIGIT
Luzon 8 8 5 7
(in exact order)
Vis / Min 9 1 4 8

MEGALOTTO 6/45
34 4 1 13 6 12
P9,264,626.40

SPORTS

Editor **Al S. Mendoza** ● *Assistant Editor* **Edwin M. Villanueva**

DREAM
2002 FIFA World Cup
TODAY'S FEATURED GAME
CHINA vs. COSTA RICA
2:30 p.m. LIVE!
On Dream Ch. 42
Commercial outlets interested in airing rights for 2002 FIFA World Cup may contact (02) 918-8000

Palaro begins

By Marc Anthony Reyes

NAGA CITY—The hunt for medals begins in the Palarong Pambansa as swimming, track and field and gymnastics gets under way today at the Metro Naga Sports Complex here.

A total of 16 gold medals, eight in swimming, five in track and field and three in gymnastics, are up for grabs as action goes full blast after yesterday's opening ceremonies graced by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

This year's Palaro, involving more than 9,000 delegates from all over the country, stakes 164 gold medals in the secondary division's 29 events and 136 golds in the elementary category's 24 events.

Among the favorites to fight for overall honors are the National Capital Region, host Bicol Region and Central Mindanao, which is set to host the 2003 Palaro following an agreement with Naga City.

In her keynote speech, President Arroyo let the Palaro delegates into a little secret: She actually agreed to postpone the Games back in 2000 and 2001.

Dressed in pink and white under-sized blouse, khaki pants and open-toe sandals,

PALARO/A21

ROMY HOMILLADA

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo (right) with PSC Chair Eric Buhain.

Nestlé
Mag-Nestlé Almusal
Sticker Panalo
Win ₱100,000 on the spot!
Dikitan ng Mag-Nestlé Almusal sticker ang inyong
Ang Mag-Nestlé Almusal ay LIBRE. They will be distributed in church and mall parking lots; subdivisions; terminals of ,
and at sa participating Shell Select stations*.
Pag nahuli ang inyong sasakyan ng roving Nestlé ,
agad! Pwede kayong manalo ng ₱10,000, ₱20,000, ₱100,000! Promo period is from May 31 to June 29 only.
*Meron pa kayong libreng Nestlé breakfast products sa selected Shell stations sa GMA on special stickering dates.
Per DOH-BFAD Permit No. 0476 Series of 2002

Paeng, Liza lead national bowling team

FOUR-TIME World Cup champion Paeng Nepomuceno and Liza del Rosario anchor the Philippine bowling team competing in the Asian Tenpin Bowling Championships.

The two and other members of the RP squad bound for Hong Kong three weeks from now were formally presented during the opening of the 31st Boysen-PBC International Open Bowling Championships over the weekend at the Green Valley Center in Pasig.

Nepomuceno leads the men's side composed of Leonardo 'Botchok' Rey, Chester King, Biboy Rivera, RJ Bautista and Christian Jan Suarez, with the trio of King, Suarez and Rey winning gold medals in the last Southeast Asian Games in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

A runner-up in last year's World Cup, Del Rosario banners the women's squad also made up of Ces Yap, Irene Benitez, Liza Clutario, Kathlynn Lopez and Jojo Canares.

Depending on their performance in the June 28-July 6 meet featuring 23 countries, Nepomuceno and Co. are possibly the ones to make up the RP bowling squad to the Busan Asian Games this September.

Except for Nepomuceno, all members of the team attended the opening ceremonies of the two-week long meet also serving as the third leg of the CGU Asian Bowling Tour 2002.

Philippine Sports Commission Chair Eric Buhain, Philippine Olympic Committee president Celso Dayrit, International Olympic Committee representative Frank Elizalde and Philippine Bowling Congress president Steve Hontiveros were present during the event which has Boysen, PSG, Prudential Guarantee, Bowlmart, Prima Pasta and Regent Foods, ILO Construction, Kegel Asia and Manila Galleria Suites for sponsors.

"In the past 127 days as PSC chairman, I have met a lot of the national team members but unique in all of these NSAs is bowling, because they were the first group of athletes who came out in the open and told me that they will win gold medals in the Asiad. It's shocking to hear it but quite a relief because it's coming from them," said Buhain in his speech.

As expected, the nationals showed the way in the early goings of the tournament sanctioned by Asian Bowling Federation, with Benitez on top of both Class O of the singles (977) and all events (1829).

Del Rosario is next in Class O singles (929) followed by Yap (898), King (920), Duane Camacho (907) and national team coach Purvis Grangor (906).

Xavier, Ateneo booters prevail

XAVIER and Ateneo each triumphed thrice Sunday to lead six other teams into the quarterfinals of the Puma Football Festival at the Glorietta Activity Center in Makati City.

Xavier whipped Rizal-Rodriguez, 6-2, Japanese Football Club, 14-4, and Laguna Eagles, 8-4, while Ateneo beat CMOFA (Cagayan de Oro-Misamis Oriental Football Association), 7-6, Camarines-Vinzons, 8-6, and Rizal-Taytay, 9-4, to remain unbeaten in the 14-team street soccerfest.

La Salle Greenhills, Mendiola FC, Masbate, Camarines-Vinzons, CMOFA and Laguna Eagles also advanced to the quarterfinals of the event organized by the IMG, presented by Puma and supported by Burlington, National Sports Grill, Planet Sports, The Athlete's Foot, Puma Eyewear, Tokyo Tokyo and 103.5 K Lite.

The LSGH boys were held to a 8-8 tie by CMOFA after they subdued Taytay-Rizal, 6-4, while Mendiola FC nipped Camarines-San Vicente, 7-5, but had to settle for a 3-3 draw with Rizal-Rodriguez.

Masbate won twice—16-0 over Camarines-San Vicente and 7-4 over Rizal-Rodriguez but was tied 3-3 by Laguna Eagles.

CMOFA toppled Baguio, 7-5, and Laguna Football School, 5-4, while Camarines-Vinzons ripped Rizal-Taytay, 6-2, and Laguna FS, 7-3.

3 massacre suspects fall /A24

METRO

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

On Target: Chinese girl kidnapped, gang-raped /A24

MOTOLITE
EXPRESS HATID
843-1111
Available in Metro Manila only

SHOW'S OVER
A parade featuring these painted boys in Pag-asa, Quezon City is among the last of the festivities that ended the merry month of May. Now come the rains. DENNIS SABANGAN

2 youths yield in doctor's slay

Third suspect still at large

By Philip C. Tubeza

TWO of the three young men suspected of killing a St. Luke's heart specialist in May have surrendered to authorities.

NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco said Mark Alba, 20, of San Pedro, Laguna, turned up at the NBI headquarters at around noon yesterday.

Antonio Rivera Jr., of Putatan, Muntinlupa City, surrendered to police last week, the Inquirer learned.

Only Kissinger Brion Kraft remains at large. Kraft is said to be a nephew of former Calauan Mayor Antonio Sanchez, who is serving a life sentence at the National Penitentiary in Muntinlupa for a rape and two killings also at UPLB.

The three, all 20 years old, are the suspects in the killing of Dr. Franklin Avellaneda on May 11. Alba and Rivera are sociology students, and Kraft is a dropout. The three are members of the Tau Gamma Phi fraternity, investigators said.

"We are now taking his (sworn) statement and we will decide on what to do after we see it," Wycoco said of Alba.

"I hope he will also come in and give his side of the story," Wycoco added, referring to Kraft.

Investigators said Avellaneda and companion Edmundo Dayag had quarreled with the three young men on May 11.

Avellaneda had fetched Kraft, Alba and Rivera for a meeting at the Apec Center at the UPLB compound, where they drank some bottles of beer, investigators said.

Dayag said he later saw Avellaneda pleading, and Alba and Rivera twisting the doctor's arms and poking a knife at him.

Dayag said he heard several gunshots, he said.

UP and Los Baños police found the doctor's body at the crime scene. Avellaneda had several stab and gunshot wounds, and was in handcuffs, investigators said.

His car was found in a nearby subdivision, but the 20,000 pesos in cash that he had kept under the floor mat in the car was missing, investigators said.

3 sentenced to death for selling shabu

By Agnes E. Donato

A QUEZON CITY trial court yesterday sentenced three men to die by lethal injection after finding them guilty of selling almost one kilo of methamphetamine hydrochloride or shabu in 2000. Edicio Lopez, Carlos de los Santos and Restituto Binua were also fined P1 million each and to shoulder the trial expenses.

In his 10-page decision, Judge Diosdado Macapagal Peralto of the Quezon City Regional Trial Court Branch 95 found the three men guilty of selling 987.85 grams of shabu.

The Philippine National Police Narcotics Group arrested the men in a buy-bust operation in Quezon City on Dec. 20, 2000.

Records showed SPO2 Celestino de la Cruz posed as a buyer and introduced himself as the owner of a club in Angeles City. With the help of an informant, he arranged to buy one kilo of shabu from the three men.

Members of the narcotics group met with the three suspects in the parking lot of the SM North Edsa mall, where the police operation took place.

During their arraignment on Feb. 12, 2001, the suspects entered a not-guilty plea. They claimed that the policemen were trying to extort money from them. They said they were arrested and then charged with selling illegal drugs after they refused to give money to the authorities.

But Judge Peralta dismissed their claim as "bare allegations and self-serving statements without any evidentiary value."

Peralta also noted that De la Cruz was a credible witness for the prosecution, as "he testified in a categorical and straightforward manner."

Weigh Less Center
MAKE THAT SKIN BLOOM WITH ROSY PEEL
MENDEZ MEDICAL GROUP
Free use of day spa & massage when you enrol
Please call for more details*
373•0766 / 374•2437 / 371•8886
371•8887 / 373•3365 / 373•3366
WEIGH LESS CENTER & SPA, 31-G Roces Ave., Q.C.
WEIGH LESS CENTER BINONDO, 498 San Fernando St., Binondo Tel. 244-5378
CLINICA MANILA, 2F Bldg. A, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City
PATIENT FIRST MEDICAL CENTER, 3F Mercury Bldg., Glorietta, Mkt.
HEALTHWAY MEDICAL CLINIC, 2nd Flr. Festival Supermall (Pixie Forest Entrance)
+ 3rd Flr. The Plaza Bldg., Greenbelt Shopping Centre, Mkt.
CEBU HOLDINGS, Suite 505 Cebu Business Park, Ayala Center, Cebu City
PAMPANGA CLINIC, D. Y. G Bldg., 2nd Flr. 312 B Mendoza St., San Fernando Pampanga
DAVAO BRANCH, Chardin Davao, Florentine Bldg., A. Bonifacio St., Davao City, 8000
ALL CLIENTS ARE SCHEDULED BY APPOINTMENT*

USA Vitamin Sale!

We deliver anywhere in the Philippines!
•Natural Vitamin E & C in one softgel: P7.
•Glutathione. 250mg: P25. •Cal-Mag: P6.
•Grapeseed Ext. 100mg: P13. •Maca: P12.
•Glucosamine. 750mg: P12. •Flaxseed: P4.
•Ginkgo. 60mg: P8. •Spirulina. 500mg: P5.
•CoQ10. 30mg: P15. •Fat Burner: P9.
•Melatonin: P5. •Anti-aging Pill: P50.
How-to's: Reflexology, Aromatherapy, Yoga, Shiatsu, Caregiver Manual, Iridology, etc.
For price list, orders or deliveries, contact:
Unit 1120, City & Land Mega Plaza
(behind Robinson's Galleria), Pasig City
Tel 687-5023; Cell # 0919-2596773

WAZZZZUP ?
ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

CASABLANCA Music Lounge	GOODAYS BAND MUSIC OF THE 60'S	☎687-0401 THUR. COOL CHANGE NO COVER CHARGE
Cowboy Grill BINAN, LAGUNA	FAT 16 PRYZM	ELY BUENDIA JUNE 20 ☎(049) 511.7268
Cowboy Grill ALMANZA LAS PIÑAS	PHYRIGIAN KOOLJACKS	ELY BUENDIA JUNE 25 ☎801.7644
Cowboy Grill ARQUIZA ST. MANILA	J BROTHERS/ POWER SURGE THINKERS W/ JOGRAD	MULATTO JUNE 11 525.1474/525.4269
Cowboy Grill MALATE	SERSIDE ICE KENDI	NO ENTRANCE FEE ☎521.8143
Cowboy Grill NOVALICHES Q.C.	KNIGHTS MR ROXY	MULATTO JUNE 18 ☎(049) 511.7268
TIA MARIA'S	INNER CIRCLE VIEW	WISE GUYS JUNE 20 GROOVE JUNE 27 ☎522-0429
FOREST Cafe Grill Restaurant	Q & A BAND	[illegible]

TUESDAY JUNE 04 912-8983

Suspected 'witch' shot dead

By Tina Santos

A 51-YEAR-OLD woman, who had told her husband that another man was accusing her of being a *mangkukulam*, was shot dead by an unidentified man in Caloocan City on Sunday.

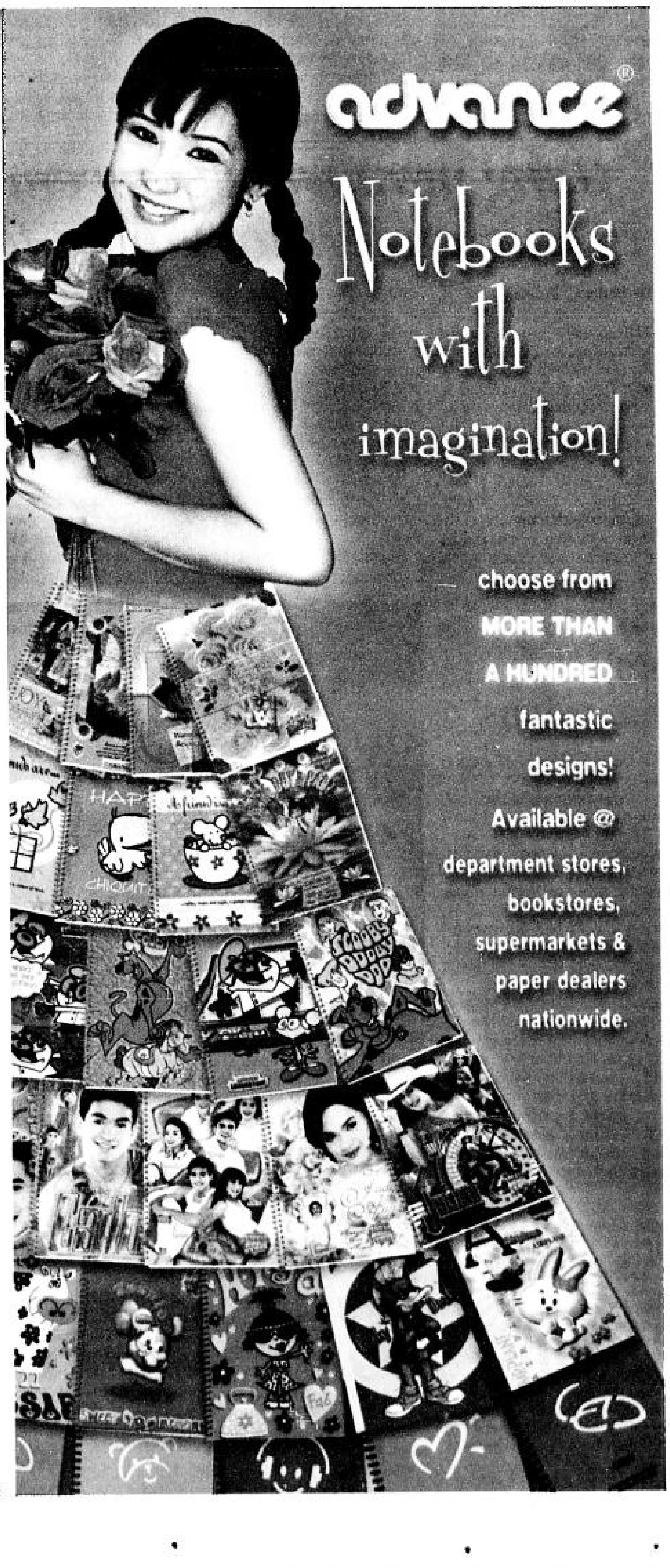
Investigators said Conchita Ramirez was shot dead in front of her house in Bagong Silang and she died on the way to the hospital.

Witness Thelma Durano told police that a man with a pistol approached Ramirez and, without any provocation, shot her in the back of the head.

Police learned that Ramirez had told her husband Carlito, 47, that if anything bad happened to her, she knew who would be held responsible, and she gave the man's name to her husband. She told her husband that the man had threatened to kill her on suspicion that she was a *mangkukulam*, police said.

CROSSWIND XUV PACKAGE
SHARK
SHARK Stainless Oval Rear Bumper w/ brake lights
Shark Roof Caddy w/ exclusive custom stainless bracket
FREE DASHIELD or CHROMED SIDE MIRROR COVERS
Also available for ADVENTURE and REVO
For every purchase of XUV package at
1013 EDSA, Q.C. Telephone No. 410-3067 / 410-3065 or 372-3640

50% OFF ON ALL SKIN TREATMENTS
FOR SCAR & SKIN WHITENING
• Dark Spots • Pigmentation
• Acne / Pimples Marks
• Post Pregnancy Marks
• Skin Whitening & Peeling
Other Services:
• Pimple/Acne Treatment
• Warts Removal
• French Technique Faciale
Enjoy BIG Savings
dermi'e total'le
Paris, France
Skin and Body Care Center
MAKATI BRANCH
12 D Century Plaza Cond., Perea St., Legaspi Village
QUEZON CITY BRANCH
Suit 315 Pasda Mansion, Panay Ave., cor Timog Ave.
LEANDRO MUÑOZ
Actor / Commercial Model
For more details please call: 812-7901 / 812-8044 / 373-0614



advance®
Notebooks with imagination!
choose from MORE THAN A HUNDRED fantastic designs!
Available @ department stores, bookstores, supermarkets & paper dealers nationwide.

Chinese girl kidnapped, gang-raped

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

IF "Saving Private Ryan" was a war story that ended all war stories in its realistic details, the short kidnapping story that you are about to read here will end all the other kidnapping dramas that you probably have heard or read about.

This is a true story. I got it from a friend of the victim's family.

One day in the second week of April, a 23-year-old Chinese-Filipino lass was driving home when an L-300 van cut across her path. Three armed men got out of the van and pulled her out of her car.

***

The men blindfolded the hapless girl. She didn't know where they took her. It was a long drive from where she was forcibly abducted which was in front of the Manila Sanitarium Hospital in Pasay City.

When they finally reached the kidnappers' hideout, they got her cellular phone. They used it to call her father, who's engaged in the business of distributing goods. The father is a "low-key, prominent businessman," as my source described him.

The kidnappers demanded a P100-million ransom for her release.

***

While one of the kidnappers was talking to the old man, the others were raping the girl. The father could hear the shouts of her daughter.

"Pay up," the kidnapper demanded, "or you will hear more cries from your daughter."

The businessman said he didn't have that much money. He haggled with the kidnappers' spokesman. The ransom was reduced to P50 million. The spokesman said he would call again in two to three hours.

***

The second call came. Again, the old man could hear his daughter's plea for mercy to the kidnappers as they were gang-raping her.

By this time, the businessman had the P50 million.

The payoff took place somewhere in Quezon City, not far from the place where the girl was released.

From the time she was kidnapped up to the time of her release, the drama lasted only six hours.

***

The following day after her release from the kidnappers, she took a plane to the United States, never to return.

The family is selling all its property and divesting its stakes in some businesses. It has decided to settle down abroad.

The girl, described by my source as "very pretty," was not the first member of the Chinoy family to be kidnapped. Last year, her brother was also kidnapped. The family paid a P10 million ransom for his release.

***

Who could have been the girl's kidnappers and rapists? She said they wore their hair short. She was able to hold their heads when they took turns raping her.

One of them was called "sir" by the others.

***

Some supervisors and rank-and-file employees at the Philippine Postal Corp. (PPC) complain that they have a "non-performing" board of directors.

"They are concerned only in collecting per diems and allowances," said one of the supervisors who acted as the group's spokesperson.

The board members have not formulated policies that would make the PPC up-to-date and at par with private mail forwarders like Fedex, DHL and LBC, according to the concerned employees. The board convenes more than once a month so its members can collect allowances for every meeting, the employees said.

The "do-nothing" board members have relatives hired by the PPC as consultants or specialists even when they're fresh college graduates.

***

The PPC board is composed of seven directors, including the postmaster-general who sits as an ex-officio member.

Retired Air Force Lt. Gen. Nicasio Rodriguez is the present postmaster general. When President Macapagal-Arroyo took over, Rodriguez tendered his courtesy resignation. But the President did not accept his resignation.

However, all the other members of the PPC board, who are Erap appointees, did not resign and continue to inflict themselves on the postal service.

Rodriguez, according to the employees, cannot have his way at the PPC because the inutile board of directors does not cooperate with him.

Why doesn't the President overhaul the PPC board?

***

Gone are the days when the word of a Filipino-Chinese to a fellow Chinoy was valued like gold or its equivalent in money.

Many of my friends in the Chinese community are complaining against two Binondo-based businessmen they identify as Richard Tan and Louie Yu for allegedly running away with their hard-earned money.

Tan and Yu, they say, approached them and asked to have their checks rediscounted. Check rediscounting means exchanging a postdated check with a "good" check that can immediately be cashed. It's equivalent to a loan, with the postdated check as collateral. The interest for this kind of loan is usually two percent a month among Binondo traders.

***

However, my Chinese friends found that when Tan and Yu's postdated checks became "good" and they were cashed in the bank, the accounts for such checks were found closed.

Tan and Yu allegedly have amassed more than P500 million in this kind of scam.

Tsk, tsk, tsk ! If Filipino-Chinese can no longer trust their fellow Chinese, who can they trust?

3 massacre suspects fall

By Philip C. Tubeza

NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation agents arrested three suspected guns for hire for the killing of four members of a family in Cabuyao, Laguna on May 21.

NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco identified the suspects as Jose "Jun" Bascon III, of Roseville Subdivision, Sta. Rosa, Laguna; Mario Caparas, of Tamis Compound, Banlik, Cabuyao, and Eduardo Cayaban, of Anahaw Homes, Dita, Sta. Rosa, Laguna.

They are suspected of killing Mauro Amarante, 83, Corazon Aguilar, Luisito Aguilar, and Alicia Amarante, all residents of Barangay Marinig, Cabuyao.

Wycoco said the killings were a result of a business deal gone bad. He said one of the victims hired the gunmen to kill their other relatives "for P300,000" because of a land dispute.

But the victim and other members of his family wound up dead because he allegedly failed to come up with the money to pay the gunmen, Wycoco said.

Lawyer Danielito Q. Lalusis, head agent of the NBI Cavite district office, said the suspects were wearing ski masks when they went to the house of Mauro Amarante on board a light colored L-300 van on May 21.

Armed with .45-caliber pistols, M16 and M14 rifles, they barged into the house and opened fire on Mauro, Corazon, and Alicia, who were on the second floor.

Luisito, who lived across the street, was also shot dead when he peeped through a window.

But Luisito's brother, Ludovico, also saw what happened. He is now a government witness, Wycoco said.

Barangay security officer Donato Magpantay, also came forward and said Caparas offered him to join the group to kill the victims but he refused.

He said he heard the gunshots on the night of May 21 and saw Bascon and another man coming out of the victims' house.

Magpantay added he saw Cayaban in the driver's seat of the getaway vehicle.

Lalusis said his men arrested the three suspects in Laguna on May 28.

They have already been charged with murder before the Department of Justice, Wycoco said.

The suspects are detained at the NBI jail, he added.

Gang man who took vendor hostage surrenders to 'kindly-faced' cop

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE KINDLY look of rookie Manila policeman Emerson Riosa convinced hostage taker Nilo Tagle, 21, to surrender after he threatened to detonate a hand grenade and held hostage a fish vendor for 10 minutes Sunday night in Sta. Cruz, Manila.

Tagle, of Tondo, Manila, held hostage Nicanor Ilagan Jr. at about 8:30 p.m. Sunday on Florentino Torres Street in Sta. Cruz, said Supt. Danilo Abarsoza, chief of the Western Police District Station III.

Policemen Samuel Mendoza, Elvin Caramtion, Jongh Labrador and Riosa told investigators they noticed Tagle and two other men suspiciously loitering in front of Plaza Fair supermarket on P. Lacson Street.

"They might have been planning to rob a jeepney or the jewelry shop in the area," Abarsoza said.

Police said Tagle had just been released from the Manila City Jail after he was charged with highway robbery.

When Tagle and his two companions saw the policemen patrolling the area, they immediately left and Tagle boarded a jeepney, police said.

The four policemen followed him in their patrol car, but Tagle alighted on F. Torres Street and tried to evade them, police said.

Tagle chanced upon fish vendor Ilagan and grabbed him. He pulled out a grenade and threatened to detonate it, police said.

Abarsoza said the four rookie policemen tried to calm down Tagle. They approached him slowly and eventually convinced him to release Ilagan, who surrendered his grenade to Riosa, Abarsoza added.

"*Maamo ang mukha niya* (He has a kindly face)," Tagle said of Riosa.

Tagle faces charges of illegal possession of explosives. The four rookie policemen face a commendation or a promotion.

METROBRIEFS

Killed in Makati

JAPAN-BOUND contract worker Asunciano Batoon, 26, was killed during his own send-off party in Makati City on Sunday by three suspected drug users, police said. Police identified one of the suspects as Jun Jun Guevarra, also of Makati. SPO4 Leonardo Timtiman said Batoon and a friend were buying beer at a store on Mabini Street in West Rembo at about 1:30 a.m. Sunday when the three men, whom police said did not like the way Batoon looked, hit the contract worker with beer bottles and a length of wood in the head. ***Alcuin Papa***

Shot in Valenzuela

VALENZUELA City police said security guard Reynante Salinaga, 35, shot and killed Roger Orense Jr., 17, a helper at a vulcanizing shop, last Thursday. Salinaga was on duty at Edward Enterprises on MacArthur Highway in Barangay Marulas when Orense, also of Marulas, began to pester him, said Insp. Salvador de la Cruz. Witnesses said Orense tried to snatch the guard's shotgun, prompting Salinaga to shoot him in the back. Orense died on the way to the Valenzuela Medical Hospital. Salinaga, of Focus Security Agency, fled, police said. ***Tina Santos***

Suicide in Mandaluyong

SECURITY guard Arnold Tolentino killed himself last Friday in Mandaluyong City, police said. Tolentino, 35, of Quezon City, was found dead at his post outside the Yellow Cab Pizza Co. on St. Francis Square in Barangay Wack-wack, said PO3 Fernando Aguilan. Investigation showed Tolentino used his service firearm to commit suicide shortly after 4 a.m. Police said they found on the guard's body a note addressed to his sister. ***Nelson Flores***

Foiled on Maysan Road

JOAQUIN Baldoza on Sunday was arrested for allegedly trying to snatch a plastic bag containing P35,000 in payroll money in Valenzuela City. Police said Baldoza, 26, of Karuhatan, Valenzuela, tried to get the plastic bag from Maribeth Lalison, 25, and Mariza Alcala, 35, employees of Escor Manpower Agency, but the two women put up a fight, which called the attention of other tenants of Robenas Building on Maysan Road, police said. ***Tina Santos***

Arrested in Tondo

ROLANDO Sunhay, reported to be one of three men who held up a tricycle in Malabon City, was arrested at the Tondo General Hospital on Friday, said Chief Insp. Sotero Ramos of the Northern Police District Office. Sunhay, 27, of Quezon City, was wounded in a shootout with lawmen and was undergoing treatment at the hospital when one of his victims, SPO3 Luis Mariano, went to the hospital and identified him as one of the culprits, Ramos said. Sunhay and two other men allegedly held up five tricycle passengers at the corner of Lapu-lapu and Hasa-Hasa streets in Barangay Longos, Malabon Friday morning, police said. One of the passengers was SPO3 Mariano, who shot it out with the suspects as soon as he got the chance, police said. ***Tina Santos***

Razed in Las Piñas

FIRE hit two factories in Las Piñas City on Saturday, destroying more than P23 million worth of heavy equipment, said SF04 Regalado Manahan of the Las Piñas fire department. Manahan said the fire at the Philippine Jewelry Cases Manufacturing Corp. inside the Republic Steel Tube compound in Pamplona started at 2:10 a.m. and spread to the nearby Bonita Shoes International Corp. Manahan said fire fighters managed to put out the blaze at 9:30 a.m. Arson investigators were still trying to find out what caused the fire. ***Alcuin Papa***

Robbed in Veinte Reales

TWO men on a red motorcycle pulled off a P300,000 payroll robbery in Valezuela City on Sunday. Annie Serrano, Gomezinta Rubio and Larry Marzan, employees of Titan Rubber Corp. in Raminal Subdivision, Veinte Reales, Valenzuela, were on board a Mitsubishi L-300 van when the two men blocked their path and announced the holdup on T. Santiago Street. The robbers took the black bag containing the payroll money then fled. ***Tina Santos***

Blasted in Bulacan

ARBIN Iglas, 22, a stay-in worker at a plastic recycling factory in Barangay Patubig, Marilao, Bulacan, was killed in an explosion at his place of work on Friday, police said. Iglas' companion, Ryan Veranillo, 18, of Barangay Tabing Ilog, was seriously injured. Police said the young men and security guard Rolando Abines were the only ones inside the Philippine Recycler Inc. factory when it exploded. Arson investigators said inflammable materials were being processed in the smelting section of the factory. ***Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk***

Cayetano project 'hazardous'

THE DEPARTMENT of Public Works and Highways has declared a component of the P6.7-million cluster projects initiated by Taguig-Pateros Rep. Alan Cayetano as hazardous to motorists and pedestrians. A statement from the office of Taguig Mayor Freddie Tiñga yesterday said the project was carried out without coordination with the local government and was completed without a municipal permit.

Cayetano initiated 63 projects in Taguig and only six have the necessary permits, according to the mayor. Four have been put on hold because they involved demolishing and wasting existing government property, the mayor's office added. The demolition does not have clearance and would therefore be illegal, he said.

Tiñga clarified that he was not blocking Cayetano's projects without cause and that he in fact has been pushing for coordination so the municipal government can help in their proper implementation.

Tiñga released the official list of Cayetano's projects from the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH)—First Metro Manila Engineering District. He said the list revealed that the contractors already implemented 28 of the infrastructure projects without securing any permit from the local government.

OPENING DAY

DENNIS SABANGAN

Students in some schools started going back to school yesterday, including these ones at the Ramon Magsaysay High School in Quezon City. Other schools are scheduled to open in the next two weeks.

Oil companies must leave Pandacan, mayor insists

By Jerome Aning

MANILA Mayor Lito Atienza yesterday denied Energy Secretary Vincent Perez's declaration that the city government has agreed to allow the big oil firms to remain in the Pandacan depot.

"We never had any talk about the oil firms staying in Pandacan," Atienza said in an interview on two radio stations.

He said city hall's position remains the same: Caltex, Shell and Petron must shut down their operations in the Pandacan fuel terminal by the end of this month.

The city council is also rushing to approve another ordinance that will authorize the mayor to immediately close the depot.

On May 21, the council's committee on police, fire, peace and order and public safety issued a report on the proposal of Councilor Edward Tan who suggested giving the mayor such authority.

All seven members of the committee recommended the closure of both the Caltex and Shell depots because they are using an underground pipeline connected to their refineries in Batangas.

Perez had said over the weekend that oil firms would be allowed to stay in the depot as long as they decrease their operation and create a buffer zone around the facility to protect nearby communities.

The four-kilometer pipeline, which is maintained by the First Philippine Industrial Holdings, endangers city residents, according to the city council committee.

The councilors recalled a fire in Muntinlupa City in June 1999 caused by the accidental puncturing of the pipeline. About 220,000 liters of kerosene and gasoline poured into a creek and ignited and the flames razed more than 300 residential and commercial structures.

But the committee said Petron might be allowed to remain in the depot since it is not dependent on the pipeline.

The removal of the Shell and Caltex facilities could allow Petron to utilize the facilities and to use the existing land as a buffer zone to minimize hazard to residents, the committee said.

But Petron's intentions would have to be determined first and evaluated, it added.

Tan's bill was not merged with an ordinance earlier passed by the council that reclassified the depot site from industrial to commercial.

Ordinance No. 8027 gave heavy industries operating in the area, including the depot, six months to move out.

The oil firms have asked for time to conduct studies on the relocation.

SM CINEMA

SM Dial-A-Movie Tel. 633-9999

NOW SHOWING

SM CITY BACOOR
4173669

1	DRAGONFLY
2	SPIDER-MAN
3	RESIDENT EVIL
4	JIHAD WARRIOR
5	STAR WARS
6	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
7	PANIC ROOM
8	40 DAYS 40 NIGHTS

SM CENTERPOINT
7149522 -7161416

1	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
2	DRAGONFLY
3	STAR WARS
4	40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS
5	RESIDENT EVIL
6	BENEATH LOCHNESS
7	PANIC ROOM
8	SPIDER-MAN
9	JIHAD WARRIOR
10	AKALA MO

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
9350749

1	SPIDER-MAN
2	JIHAD WARRIOR
3	DRAGONFLY
4	STAR WARS
5	RESIDENT EVIL
6	AKALA MO
7	PANIC ROOM
8	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
9	BENEATH LOCHNESS
10	40 DAYS 40 NIGHTS
11	LIGAYA PANTASYA . . .
12	KILABOT AT KEMBOT

SM CITY MANILA
5239240

1	SPIDER-MAN
2	DRAGONFLY
3	40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS
4	RESIDENT EVIL
5	PANIC ROOM
6	STAR WARS
7	AKALA MO
8	LIGAYA PANTASYA . . .
9	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
10	IN THE BEDROOM
11	BENEATH LOCHNESS
12	JIHAD WARRIOR

SM MEGAMALL
6331901 • 6329401

1	RESIDENT EVIL
2	PANIC ROOM
3	40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS
4	RESIDENT EVIL
5	SPIDER-MAN
6	DRAGONFLY
7	JIHAD WARRIOR
8	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
9	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
10	STAR WARS
11	AKALA MO
12	IN THE BEDROOM

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9295452

1	DRAGONFLY
2	SPIDER-MAN
3	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
4	JIHAD WARRIOR
5	40 DAYS 40 NIGHTS
6	RESIDENT EVIL
7	STAR WARS
8	PANIC ROOM
9	CLOSED
10	CLOSED
11	CLOSED
12	CLOSED

SM SOUTHMALL
8060688

1	DRAGONFLY
2	40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS
3	RESIDENT EVIL
4	BENEATH LOCHNESS
5	SPIDER-MAN
6	AKALA MO
7	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
8	STAR WARS
9	JIHAD WARRIOR
10	PANIC ROOM

SM CITY CEBU
2313876

1	SPIDER-MAN
2	SNOW DOGS
3	K-PAX
4	THE DEEP END
5	AKALA MO
6	JASON-X
7	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
8	STAR WARS

SM CITY ILOILO
3209422

1	THE DEEP END
2	CLOSED
3	SPIDER-MAN
4	RETURN TO NEVERLAND
5	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
6	STAR WARS
7	CLOSED
8	I AM SAM

SM CITY PAMPANGA
7128015

1	STAR WARS
2	BENEATH LOCHNESS
3	SPIDER-MAN
4	AKALA MO
5	7 DAYS TO LIVE
6	KILABOT AT KEMBOT

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
8294975

1	DRAGONFLY
2	RESIDENT EVIL
3	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
4	PANIC ROOM

SM CINEMA GUADALUPE
8820984

1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
3	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
2514302

1	RESIDENT EVIL
2	JIHAD WARRIOR
3	AKALA MO
4	KILABOT AT KEMBOT

SM CITY DAVAO
2976998

1	SHOWTIME
2	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
3	STAR WARS
4	7 DAYS TO LIVE
5	I AM SAM
6	SNOW DOGS

SM BICUTAN

1
2
3
4

SOON TO OPEN!
4 NEW
STATE-OF-THE-ART
VISION & SOUND

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO

1
2
3
4

SOON TO OPEN!
4 NEW
STATE-OF-THE-ART
VISION & SOUND

THE PODIUM
18 ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City

1	RESIDENT EVIL
2	PANIC ROOM

W/ LATE NIGHT SCREENING ON WEEKENDS 6389781-85

Movies are subject to change without prior notice

For screening times, call 729-7777.
Schedules are subject to change without prior notice.

AYALA CINEMAS NOW SHOWING

G1 GLORIETTA 1	G4 GLORIETTA 4	GB1 GREENBELT 1	GB3 GREENBELT 3	ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER
ALL	DIGITAL		SOUND	
1 DRAGONFLY (Advance Screening)	1 RESIDENT EVIL	1 STARWARS: EPISODE 2	1 STARWARS: EPISODE 2 12:20, 3:00, 5:40, 8:20, 11:00	1 STAR WARS: EPISODE 2
2 STAR WARS: EPISODE 2	2 DRAGONFLY (Advance Screening)	2 40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS	2 PANIC ROOM 1:20, 3:50, 6:20, 8:50, 11:20	2 RESIDENT EVIL
3 KILABOT AT KEMBOT	3 STAR WARS: EPISODE 2 11:50, 2:30, 5:10, 7:50, 10:30	3 PANIC ROOM	3 DRAGONFLY (Advance Screening)	3 PANIC ROOM
4 RESIDENT EVIL	4 JIHAD WARRIOR	MARTIN NIEVERA BACK ONSTAGE 9:00 PM June 8, 14, 15, 21, 22, 28 & 29	4 40 DAYS& 40 NIGHTS 12:25, 2:35, 4:45, 6:55, 9:05, 11:15	4 DRAGONFLY (Advance Screening)
	5 SPIDER-MAN		RESIDENT EVIL 12:25, 2:35, 4:45, 6:55, 9:05, 11:15	5 40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS
	6 40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS			
	7 PANIC ROOM			

MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING

EMAIL: mmta@asia.com

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (dts)	RESIDENT EVIL
2 (sdds)	SPIDER-MAN
3 (dts)	STAR WARS
4 gold (dts)	STAR WARS
5 gold (dolby)	PANIC ROOM
6 gold (sdds)	40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS
7 gold (dolby)	DRAGONFLY
8	AKALA MO
9	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
10	JIHAD WARRIOR

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1	RESERVE
2	LIGAYA PANTASYA . . .
3 (dts)	RESERVE
4	RESERVE
5	BENEATH LOCHNESS
6 (dts)	RESERVE
Golden Pearl THX	RESERVE

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3274

1	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
2	JIHAD WARRIOR
3	PAGSALUHAN NATIN

starmall Movies
(Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986

1	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
2	JIHAD WARRIOR
3	RESIDENT EVIL
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	STAR WARS
5	PAGSALUHAN NATIN

METROPOLIS star
tel 850.4285

1	RESIDENT EVIL
2	PAGSALUHAN NATIN
3	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
4	JIHAD WARRIOR
5	DRAGONFLY
6	40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS
7	
8	

PREMIERE CINEMA THX
(Makati City) TEL. 751-2010 TO 13

1	40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	AKALA MO
2	SPIDER-MAN

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC
tel 930.9515

1	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
2	
3	

Spring
(Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864

1	LIGAYA PANTASYA NG BAYAN
A	

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	RESERVE
2	RESERVE
3	LIGAYA PANTASYA NG BAYAN
4	

GOTESCO CINEMA

Gotesco City
(Manila) tel 734.8568

1 (dolby)	JIHAD WARRIOR
2	
3	
4	PANIC ROOM
5	40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS
6	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
7 (dts)	STAR WARS
8 (sdds)	DRAGONFLY
9 (dolby)	RESIDENT EVIL

Gotesco Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2	KILABOT AT KEMBOT

Gotesco Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
2	JIHAD WARRIOR
3	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
4 (sdds)	DRAGONFLY
5	PANIC ROOM
6 (dolby)	RESIDENT EVIL
7 (dts)	STAR WARS
8	PAGSALUHAN NATIN
9	LIGAYA PANTASYA . . .

Gotesco Commonwealth
tel 951.0083

1 (dts)	RESERVE
2	RESERVE
3	RESERVE
4	PANIC ROOM
5 (sdds)	STAR WARS
6	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
7 (dolby)	DRAGONFLY
8	RESIDENT EVIL

Gotesco Ortigas
tel 656.5795

1	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
2	JIHAD WARRIOR
3 (dts)	RESIDENT EVIL
4	PAGSALUHAN NATIN
5 (sdds)	DRAGONFLY

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1	KILABOT AT KEMBOT

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	KILABOT AT KEMBOT

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
Lords	PAGSALUHAN NATIN
Jennet	LIGAYA PANTASYA . . .

MARKETPLACE Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
2	JIHAD WARRIOR
3	RESIDENT EVIL

Prima
(Pasig) tel 641.1215

3	

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238

1 (dolby)	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
2	PAGSALUHAN NATIN
3	JIHAD WARRIOR
4	RESERVE
5	LIGAYA PANTASYA

New Divisoria Mall
DIVISORIA CINEMA
tel 244.4619

1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	

FRC Cinema
Talaba Bacoor Cavite

1	
2	

Berma
tel 879.2029

1	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
2	PAGSALUHAN NATIN

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1	
2	

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna) tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
2	AKALA MO
3 (dts)	RESIDENT EVIL

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
2 (dts)	AKALA MO
3 (dolby)	STAR WARS
4	40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
2 (dolby)	RESIDENT EVIL
3 (dts)	STAR WARS
4	40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
2	STAR WARS
3	SOON TO OPEN
4	SOON TO OPEN

Cinema 2000 MetroTown
(Tarlac) tel(045) 982.1729

1	AKALA MO
2	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
3 (dolby)	BLADE- 2
4 (dts)	STAR WARS

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (sdds)	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
2	FRUIT IS SWELLING
3	LIGAYA PANTASYA . . .
4 (dts)	JIHAD WARRIOR

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (dolby)	STARWARS
2	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
3 (dts)	40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS
4	BENEATH LOCHNESS
5	AKALA MO

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
2	40 DAYS 40 NIGHTS
3	RESIDENT EVIL

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 249-2558

1	40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS
2	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
3	BENEATH LOCHNESS

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311

1	STARS WARS
2	SPIDER-MAN
3	SANA TOTOO NA

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1	
2	
3	

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (dts)	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
2 (dts)	RESERVE

Fourstep
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385

1	

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
2	STAR WARS
3	AKALA KO

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	DEEP END
2	SPIDER-MAN
3	JASON-X
4	AKALA KO

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

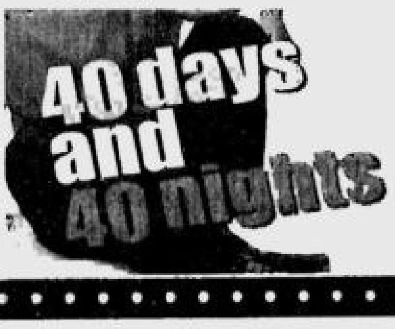
1 (dolby ex)	JASON-X
2	AKALA MO
3 (dts)	7 DAYS TO LIVE
4	KILABOT AT KEMBOT

*Movies are subject to change without prior notice

ADVANCED SCREENING THX DOLBY dts SDDS

CMG INTERNATIONAL

PREMIERE CINEMA NOW SHOWING



MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS
@ Robinsons Malls

NOW SHOWING

Galleria
632- 9115- 16
633- 7641 loc. 279

1 THX	STAR WARS 2
2	RESIDENT EVIL
3	SPIDER-MAN
4	JIHAD WARRIOR
5	PANIC ROOM
6	40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS
7	IN THE BEDROOM
8	SPIDER-MAN
9	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
10	BENEATH LOCHNESS

Ermita
536 -7809- 12

1	STAR WARS 2
2	SPIDER-MAN
3	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
4	40 DAYS 40 NIGHTS
5	JIHAD WARRIOR
6	PANIC ROOM
7	RESIDENT EVIL

Metro East -
Marcos hway 682- 8193 / 8280

1	JIHAD WARRIOR
2	STAR WARS 2
3	STAR WARS 2
4	PANIC ROOM
5	SPIDER-MAN
6	40 DAYS 40 NIGHTS
7	RESIDENT EVIL
8	KILABOT AT KEMBOT

Novaliches
935- 3229 - 30

1	STAR WARS 2
2	PANIC ROOM
3	AKALA MO
4	SPIDER-MAN
5	RESIDENT EVIL
6	40 DAYS 40 NIGHTS
7	JIHAD WARRIOR
8	KILABOT AT KEMBOT

Imus
471- 8188 / 875- 3838

1	STAR WARS 2
2	PANIC ROOM
3	40 DAYS 40 NIGHTS
4	RESIDENT EVIL
5	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
6	JIHAD WARRIOR

Bacolod
441- 0453 / 0459

1	STAR WARS 2
2	SHOWTIME
3	RETURN TO NEVERLAND
4	K-PAX
5	I AM SAM
6	AKALA MO

Iloilo
336- 8077 - 78

1	STAR WARS 2
2	RETURN TO NEVERLAND
3	I AM SAM
4	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
5	DEEP END
6	SPIDER MAN

Star Mills-
Sn Fernando, Pamp. 875- 1927
961-5318 / 5270

1	DEATH TO SMOOCHY
2	SPIDER-MAN
3	STAR WARS 2
4	BENEATH LOCHNESS
5	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
6	STAR WARS 2

malabon citisquare-
soon to open.

40 days and 40 nights

Late Night Screening
on
May 31- June 1, 2002
Friday & Saturday -
11:00 p.m. @
Robinsons
Movieworld
Galleria

how-2-reach-us:
email: htc@netasia-mnl.net
http://www.robinsonsmovieworld.com
call-a-movie 536- 7812

MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

Martin hosts MTV awards

EXCITEMENT mounts as the days draw closer to MTV Pilipinas 2002, the night that honors the best in Philippine music video-making.

On June 6, the red carpet will roll out at the NBC Tent in Fort Bonifacio Global City to welcome celebrities, nominees and guests in the by-invitation-only event.

Now that the voting process has culminated, wait and see who will take home the awards for best new artist, best group, best male, best female, best song, best director and best video.

Concert king Martin Nievera hosts the star-studded show, with special appearances by MTV VJs Donita Rose, Sarah Meier, Belinda Panelo and KC Montero.

Those already slated to appear include nominees Rivermaya, Barbie's Cradle, True Faith, Cheese, Gary Valenciano, Kyla, Janno Gibbs, Regine Velasquez, Parokya ni Edgar and Greyhoundz.

Presentors who are making an appearance include basketball star Alex Compton, actress and model Nancy Castiglione, Benetton image model and columnist Rissa Samson, MTV and Penshoppe Youth Council member Marco Lobregat, noted designer Inno Sotto, style icon and interior designer Tessa Prieto-Valdez, Bench image model Borgy Manotoc, stage director Bobby Garcia, comedienne and actress Rufa Mae Quinto, musical directors Louie Ocampo and Mel Villena and equestrienne and columnist Toni Leviste.

Catch the on-air special on Saturday, June 29 at 2 p.m. on MTV Philippines.

Repeats will be aired Monday, July 1 at 6 p.m.; Friday, July 5 at 12 p.m.

POWER PLANT CINEMA

Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41

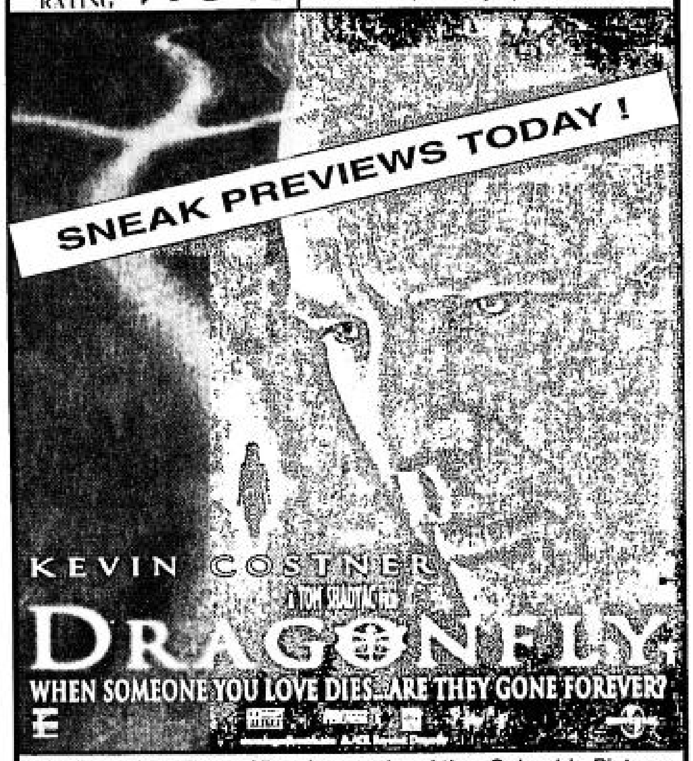
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

STAR WARS - GP 1:10, 4:00, 6:50, 9:40	**40 DAYS AND 40 NIGHTS - R18** 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50	**DRAGONFLY - P13** 1:20, 3:30, 5:40, 7:50, 10:00
RESIDENT EVIL - P13 11:45, 1:40, 3:45, 5:50, 7:55, 10:00	**DEATH TO SMOOCHY - P13** 12:45, 3:00, 5:15, 7:30, 9:45	**PANIC ROOM - R18** 12:50, 3:10, 5:30, 7:50, 10:10

MATINEE P80.00 - FREE SEATING - SCREENINGS BEFORE 5 PM - MON. TO FRI.

OPENS TOMORROW

MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 | Children below 13 yrs. old will be allowed in accompanied by a parent or adult.



Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures

---

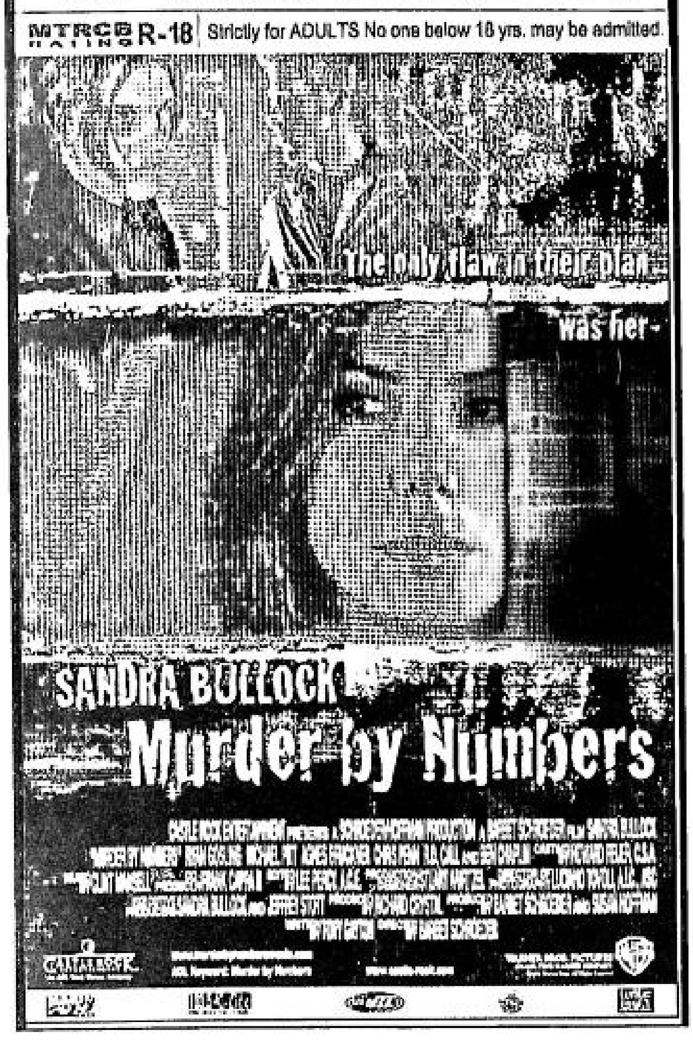
NOW ON ITS 3RD WEEK

MTRCB RATING ▶ G General Patronage | ALL AGES ADMITTED

"AN EXHILARATING TWO HOURS OF SERIOUS FUN."
RICHARD CORLISS & JESS CAGLE, TIME MAGAZINE
STAR WARS
EPISODE II
ATTACK OF THE CLONES
GEORGE LUCAS
THX

OPENS JUNE 5 !

MTRCB RATING R-18 | Strictly for ADULTS No one below 18 yrs. may be admitted.

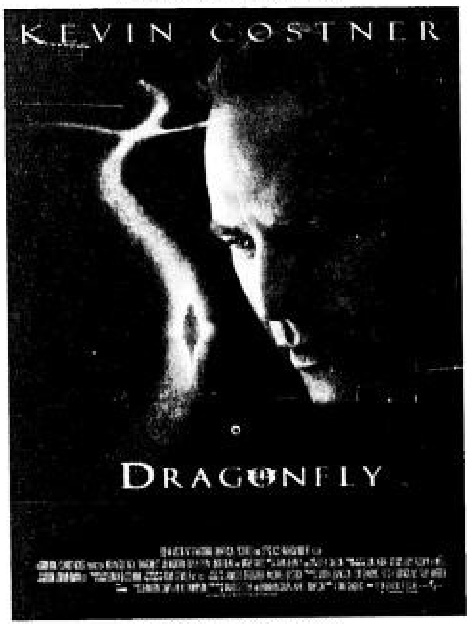

The only flaw in their plan was her-
SANDRA BULLOCK
Murder by Numbers
CASTLE ROCK ENTERTAINMENT
WARNER BROS. PICTURES

SEE IT FIRST!

SM CINEMA

SPECIAL SNEAK PREVIEW

June 3 - 4, 2002



MTRCB RATING: PG13

Tickets available at:
SM MANILA • MEGAMALL • CENTERPOINT • SUCAT
SOUTHMALL • FAIRVIEW • NORTH EDSA • BACOOR

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101	
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	AKALA MO
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	BENEATH LOCHNESS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	STAR WARS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	SPIDERMAN
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	STAR WARS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	FRUIT IS SWELLING
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	DEATH TO SMOOCHY
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	SPIDERMAN
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	STAR WARS
FIESTA CARNIVAL	
NEW FRONTIER	
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	BIBINGKA/LOVE ME TENDER
ODEON	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
ODEON-2	LIGAYA, PANTASYA...
ROBEN	PAGSALUHAN
TANDEM-1	ITLOG
TANDEM-2	IKA-7 GLORYA
TIMES	WE WERE SOLDIER / E.T.
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	PAGSALUHAN
REMAR	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
REMAR-2	PAGSALUHAN
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
B	LIGAYA, PANTASYA...
C	PAGSALUHAN
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CLOSED
CINEMA-2	STAR WARS: EPISODE 2
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
CINEMA-2	LIGAYA
CINEMA-3	PAGSALUHAN
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	STAR WARS
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	STAR WARS
CINEMA-6	IN THE BEDROOM
CINEMA-7	AKALA MO
CINEMA-8	SPIDERMAN
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	JIHAD WARRIOR
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	PANIC ROOM
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	STAR WARS
CINEMA-12	40 DAYS...
CINEMA-14	RESIDENT EVIL
CINEMA-15	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	STAR WARS: EPISODE 2
CINEMA-2	40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS
CINEMA-3	DRAGONFLY
CINEMA-4	RESIDENT EVIL
CINEMA-5	DEATH TO SMOOCHY
CINEMA-6	PANIC ROOM
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PINAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARANAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
CINEMA-2	THE OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
CINEMA-4	ALAMID

---

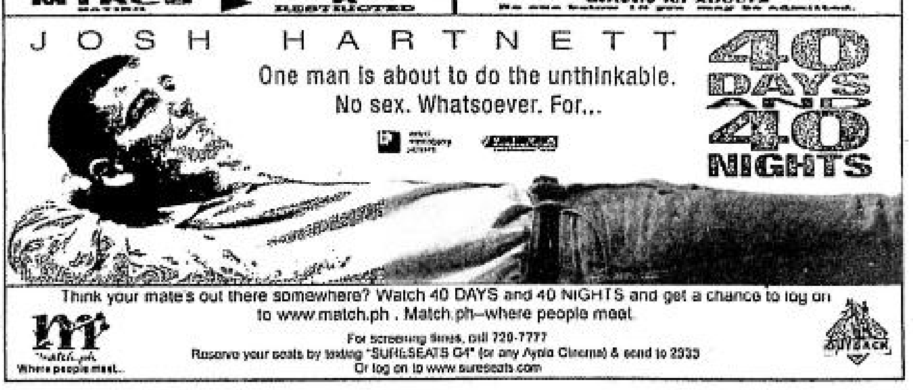
the all-digital-sound

AYALA CINEMAS

GLORIETTA 1 & 4 / GREENBELT 1 & 3
ALABANG TOWN CENTER

NOW SHOWING

MTRCB RATING ▶ R RESTRICTED | Strictly for ADULTS No one below 18 yrs. may be admitted.



One man is about to do the unthinkable.
No sex. Whatsoever. For...

Think your mate's out there somewhere? Watch 40 DAYS and 40 NIGHTS and get a chance to log on to www.match.ph . Match.ph–where people meet.

match.ph Where people meet...

For screening times, call 729-7777
Reserve your seats by texting "SURESEATS G4" (or any Ayala Cinema) & send to 2333
Or log on to www.sureseats.com

---

the all-digital-sound

AYALA CINEMAS

GLORIETTA 1 & 4 / GREENBELT 3
ALABANG TOWN CENTER

ADVANCE SHOWING

DRAGONFLY

KEVIN COSTNER

When someone you love dies... are they gone forever?

JUNE 3 (Mon.) & 4 (Tue.)

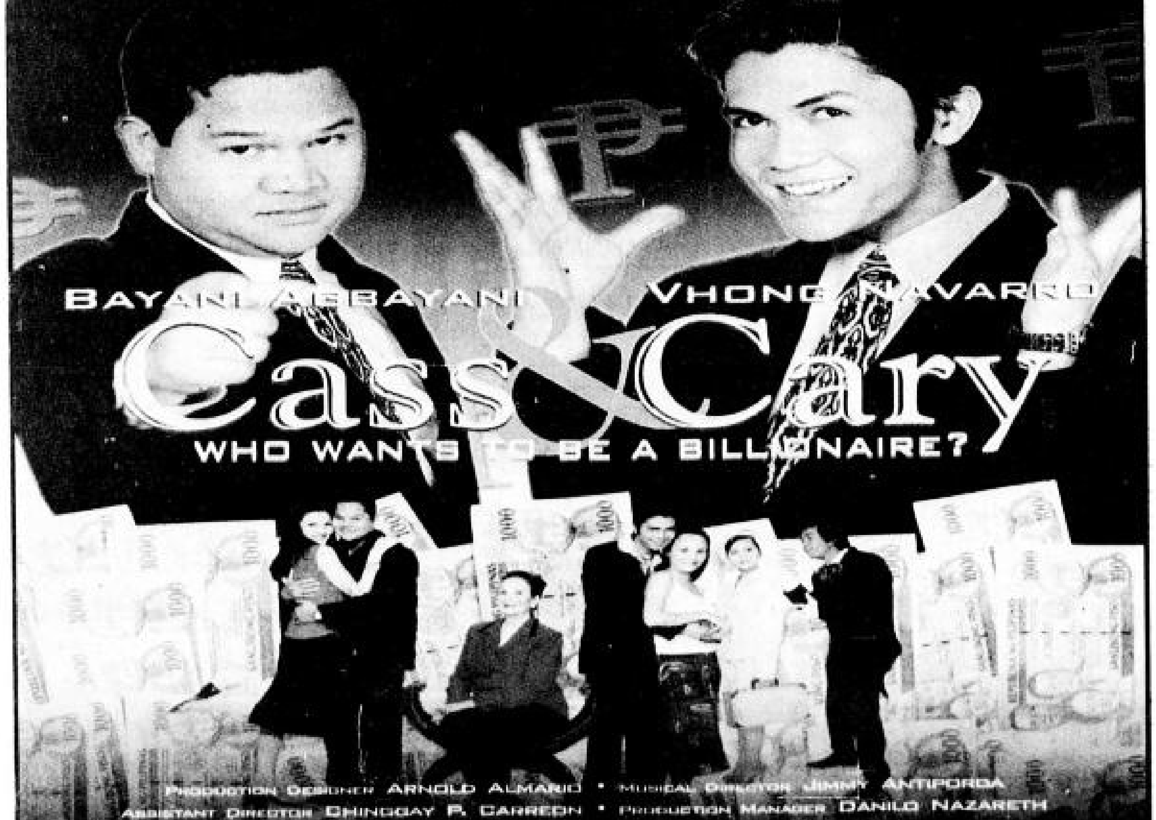
MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13

For screening times, call 729-7777
Reserve your seats by texting "SURESEATS G4"
(or any Ayala Cinema) and send to 2333.
Or log on to www.sureseats.com

GRAND OPENING TOMORROW !

MTRCB RATING ▶ G General Patronage | ALL AGES ADMITTED

VIOLETT FILMS PRODUCTION
INITIAL PRESENTATION
MS. GLORIA ROMERO
CARMINA VILLAROEL • MATET DE LEON • GLADYS REYES
AND LONG MEJIA
SPECIAL PARTICIPATION OF
TONTON GUTIERREZ • RITA MAGDALENA • DICK ISRAEL



PRODUCTION DESIGNER ARNOLD ALMARIO • MUSICAL DIRECTOR JIMMY ANTIPORDA
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR CHINGGAY P. CARREON • PRODUCTION MANAGER DANILO NAZARETH
PUBLICITY AND PROMOTION LOUIT SOLIS
CINEMATOGRAPHER JUN RASCA, (FSC) • EDITOR ALONG VINARAO
SUPERVISING PRODUCERS SOLITA CARREON AND BETH GUIWA
ASSOCIATE PRODUCERS ROMEO LL. SEVILLA AND MICHAEL C. SEVILLA
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER VIOLETA C. SEVILLA
WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY JOSE N. CARREON, DGPI

Violett films production

STARLIGHT FILMS RELEASE

LG

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Louie C. Camino

If Brocka were alive . .

By Bibeth Orteza
Contributor

(Last of two parts)

"LINO Brocka would have been appalled that his name is being used to justify the passage of a bill that deliberately omitted the guarantee of a filmmaker to be torn away from mediocrity and parasitic dependence on formulae resulting from arbitrary exercise of state-and-church-controlled censorship.

"But he would not have been shocked, because he knew exactly what constituted the motives and fibers of individuals who moved around the hallowed halls of so-called leadership in the film community. He was completely aware of the potential for greatness of creativity, largeness of spirit and venom of ambition of his colleagues, some of whom sashayed beside him for the sheer privilege of association. He discerned the charlatans from the Charlemagnes and certainly knew all the possible colors of the chameleons that assumed the roles of messiahs and martyrs.

"If Lino were alive, he would have said more than a mouthful. He never mistook or misused politeness for the sake of social acceptance, much less hypocrisy." ***Jose Javier Reyes, writer-director***

"He would curse everyone who endorsed the watered-down version of the film bill to high heavens! But he will reserve a special tirade to the three directors who missed an opportunity to be great! He will also tell us not to.despair, not to lose hope but instead take this as a challenge and continue making provocative films that will not only entertain but, most importantly, make the audience think." ***Gil Portes, film director***

"He'd lead a protest against the betrayal. But if he were still here, our bill would have won. His voice alone would have been enough to make it win. Just before his death, his stature was such, nationally and internationally, that he could have brought everyone together to fight for both tax rewards and censorship exemptions without dropping one for the other." ***Roy Iglesias, writer***

"He'd curse all those who have betrayed the cause of freedom in the arts. He'd curse them strongly and crisply, the way no one else can curse, not caring who'd get hit. I wish he was alive, then they'd all get hell. Then again, if Lino was still here, the traitors would all be rallying with him, pretending to be one body behind him. Now they've shown their true colors, these unprincipled cowardly weaklings! What they've done is terrible. I don't know how they can stomach their betrayal, then comb their hair like nothing happened and walk the streets with heads up high. Wow." ***Lav Diaz, film director***

"Knowing Lino's sympathy for the industry's workers, he would first make sure some of the financial gains would filter down to the workers themselves, to directly benefit those whose compensation he deemed unjust. But he would also point out that producers would not, as a rule, do good films simply because of the tax rebates. His position on censorship was non-negotiable. Regarding the present scenario, he would've said, '*Naku, Mel, wala ka talagang maaasahan sa kanila* (There's really nothing we can expect from them)!" ***Mel Chionglo, film director***

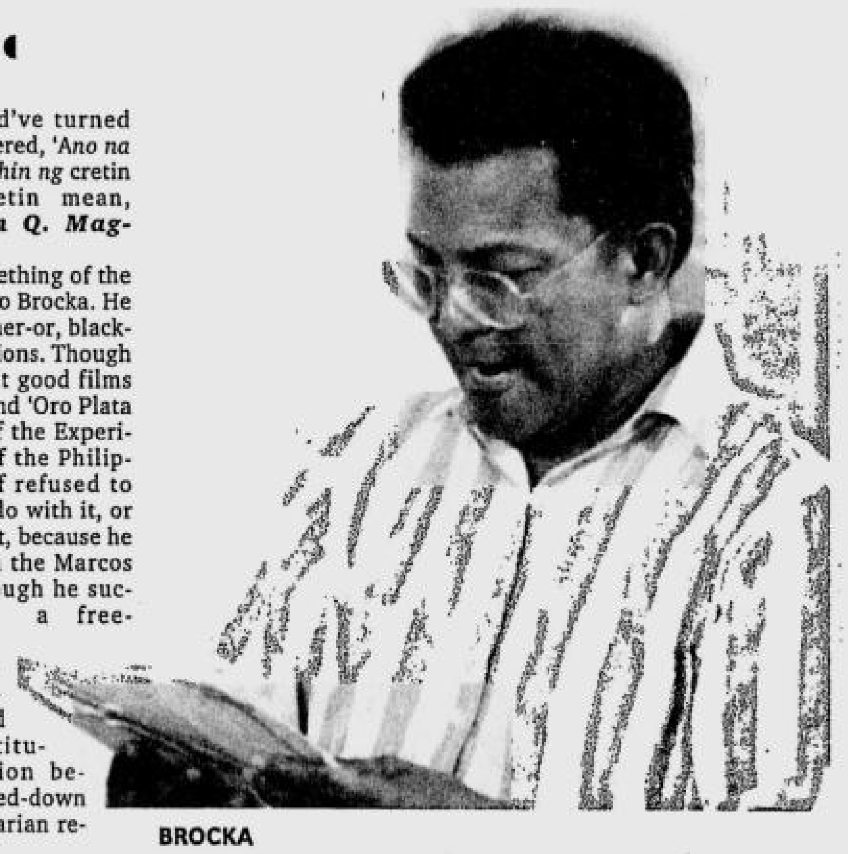
"Lino would not be disappointed anymore with the hypocrisy of the politicians. He would be disappointed with the hypocrisy of some artists." ***Armando Lao, writer***

"Lino Brocka started from a point of compromise. He did *komiks* material like 'Wanted Perfect Mother,' and 'Now,' an almost forgotten, as it should be, film on early student activism starring Hilda Koronel and Tirso Cruz III. But considering at the time of his death he had already put in 'freedom of expression' in the Constitution, and also by then he had been at odds with some of the key figures on the other side of midnight, I think he would have stood pat on the issue. He would have fought to have the two important provisions concerning tax incentives and censorship exemption retained." ***Ces Evangelista, writer***

"Being the genuine leader that he was in cinema, arts, and culture, Lino would have foreseen this bill to be the perfect vehicle for implementing the free expression principle and amending the MTRCB censorship law insofar as graded films are concerned. He would not allow the censorship exemption provision to be held hostage by a tax incentives provision. He would not have chosen to drop one for the other; he would refuse to accept that freedom of expression is exclusive of or incompatible with a producer's tax rewards or low-income-earner's employment security." ***Carlitos Siguion-Reyna, film director***

"On the balance, Lino Brocka always erred on the side of excess, of the total, of the all-or-nothing. He seemed to think that he was purer that way. And over time, many times, his way was proven right. Today, given this bill, he would have gone to town with all the passion, all the heat, all the excellent excess of his language and his heart and would have called the parties who maimed this bill, at his very kindest, cretins. Then, very like Brocka, he would've turned around and whispered, '*Ano na nga ba'ng ibig sabihin ng* cretin (What does cretin mean, again)?" ***Jo-Ann Q. Maglipon, writer***

"There was something of the Manichaean in Lino Brocka. He tended to take either-or, black-versus-white positions. Though he recognized that good films such as 'Himala' and 'Oro Plata Mata' came out of the Experimental Cinema of the Philippines, he himself refused to have anything to do with it, or to make films for it, because he associated it with the Marcos dictatorship. Though he succeeded in getting a freedom-of-expression provision into the new Constitution, he resigned from the Constitutional Commission because of its watered-down provisions on agrarian reform.



BROCKA

"On this basis I would say that, yes, Lino might reject the entire film incentives bill, despite some features beneficial to film artists and the film industry.

"On the other hand, Lino could sometimes be pragmatic. As far as I know, he remained on the board of the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) even when he opposed and personally disregarded the boycott position that Bayan took in the snap elections. So on this basis I might say that, no, Lino might not entirely dismiss the film incentives bill, because it does have features beneficial to film artists and the film industry, but he would certainly continue to campaign against censorship and all forms of artistic and media restriction.

"I realize that this is a wishy-washy, on-the-one-hand-this-on-the-other-hand-that position. But then I am not Lino Brocka. I myself was inclined not to join the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board because I see the decree that created it as basically repressive and because I think film and television should be entitled to the same freedom from censorship enjoyed by the other arts and the media. But I was prevailed upon to join the MTRCB because I was reminded that Presidential Decree No. 1986 does have a few liberal and progressive provisions, which liberal and progressive MTRCB members could cite or take advantage of." ***Jose F. Lacaba, writer***

"Lino would be out on the streets, cursing. Until he died, he believed in the freedom of the artist to express himself. He never compromised, that's why he died a pauper. As a matter of fact, his own house hadn't even been fully paid for at the time of his death." ***Nanding Josef, vice president and artistic director of the Cultural Center of the Philippines***

"One doesn't even have to second guess how Lino would have reacted to the neutering of the original House Bill. I can also imagine what colorful epithets he would have rained on those who betray the principle of freedom of expression in the name of practical compromise. And why shouldn't he? If passed, the bill would reward cinematic 'excellence' in films, but only if these films toe the line of hoary conservatism and do not deviate from approved and safe 'realities.' This centuries-old culture of compromise springs from our 'crumbs mentality' (a.k.a. '*isip-Indio*') which never stands up for its rights but is content with accepting crumbs from the table 'because it is better than nothing.' It is the mendicant mentality that has ruined and continues to ruin our society." ***Dr. Nicanor Tiongson, UP Film Department***

Top female sex symbols

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

WHO are the sexiest female performers in the world? The E! channel recently conducted a survey of audience preferences in this regard, and these bodacious beauties ended up in the Top Five:

5. Britney Spears
4. Charlize Theron
3. Angelina Jolie
2. Halle Berry
1.Jennifer Lopez

By way of explaining its choices, the channel shared a number of its criteria for selecting its top female sex symbols: They had to have a strong, unique personal style and temperament, they had to be more than just pretty faces (and bodies), and they had to radiate "inner beauty."

The fact that **Jennifer Lopez** led the field in this regard confirms the popularity this season of Latin talents over blacks like **Halle Berry**, and sensual but WASP types like **Britney Spears**, **Charlize Theron** and **Angelina Jolie**.

Lopez is given extra points for her versatility: She not only acts, but she also sings and dances up a storm. It's also impressive that she had her start in show biz way back in 1990 (as a dancer on the TV show "In Living Color"), and yet still comes off as a hot, young talent today.

On the local show biz scene, the top five female sex symbols are—? Your move, dear reader.

Outstanding young talents

THE REPEAT presentation this August of Trumpets' "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe" will showcase select young talents who have "survived" the rigid round of auditions held recently.

The audition masters were looking for two sets of children to play the Pevensie children in the musical—the endearing Lucy, the problematic Edmund, older sister Susan, and the eldest brother, Peter.

So many promising kids auditioned that 60 of them were called back for a six-hour workshop and selection process. The list of 60 was whittled down to 18, and at the end of the workshop, the musical had its young cast:

Peter will be played by **Franco Mabanta** and **Paolo Valenciano**, with **Michael Ramirez** as understudy. Susan is **Camille Cabrera** and **Crisel Consunji**, with **Tanya Manalang** understudying.

Edmund has been assigned to **Sam Concepcion** and **Iñaki Ting**, with **Javvy Ortega** as understudy. And Lucy will be played by **Moreen Guese** and **Alexa Ortega**. The understudy is **Chesca Ortega**.

The actors playing the adult roles of the Lion, the White Witch, Father Christmas, Tumnus the Fawn, and Mr. And Mrs. Beaver have yet to be announced.

'S.A.T.S.U.'

AT 10 p.m. on Wednesday, June 17, the new action-comedy show, "S.A.T.S.U.," makes its debut on IBC 13. The stars are **Robin Padilla** and **Jackie Woo**.

"S.A.T.S.U." stands for Strategic and Tactical Surveillance Unit, and Robin and Jackie play law enforcers:

Robin is Vic, a young cop who makes it a point to get himself assigned to the most dangerous cases, while Jackie is his Japanese partner, who is in the Philippines to train local policemen in the use of modern surveillance equipment.

The new action-comedy show also stars **Rufa Mae Quinto**, **Ricardo Cepeda**, **Dexter Doria**, **Ernie Zarate** and **Alicia Lane**, and is directed by **Al Tantay**.

Free performances

RAP acts Salbakuta, EHP, Razzamanazz, Kruzzada and Quickie will give free performances in these venues: SM Davao on June 7, Robinson's Metro East on June 15, Robinson's Pampanga on June 16, Ever Gotesco Commonwealth on June 22, Robinson's Novaliches on June 29, and Robinson's Imus on June 30.

Freak factor

TOO many freaks are being featured on TV magazine shows these days.

If you've got anything physically odd or wrong with you that makes other people stare and whisper, you're a likely candidate for your 15 minutes of fame on television. But, if you look normal, too bad, you don't have TV's requisite gawk or freak factor.

This circus sideshow mentality is hypocritical because it pokes fun at the physically-deformed, while pretending to commiserate with them on their hapless lot.

Also reprehensible is some TV shows' cruel bias against old people. They are depicted as doddering, senile, silly, daft and objects of derision. What utter lack of respect and appreciation for our elders! Desist, instantly.

Bobby Yan shines on his own

DOLLYWOOD

Dolly Anne Carvajal

AS I promised in my previous column, I'm going to let you in on my eating binge with **Bobby Yan**, who gave me a taste test of the 12 sumptuous varieties of *pica-pica* from Fry This.

Fry This offers an assortment of meat, poultry, seafood and desserts with marinades, spices and sauces that especially suit the Pinoy taste bud. Check out their yummy goodies: mango cheesecake, apple pie fritters, sushi balls, calamnsi "stix," mushroom fries, Macao sausage puff, chicken butt, pork chop, pork dumplings, crispy *kangkong*, fried coated quail eggs and squid kebab.

Bobby and his late brother **Rico Yan** and their business partners **Michelle Chang**, **Eric Lim**, **Emer Lim** and **Joel Tuquib** put up Fry This.

The health-conscious need not worry. The owners say Fry This uses 100 percent, non-cholesterol vegetable oil.

They were all set to launch the business venture as soon as Rico returned from Dos Palmas after Holy Week. In fact, the photo here was taken a few weeks before Rico left for the Holy Week break.

It was refreshing to see Bobby minus the sullen look. Although it's evident that he will never stop missing Rico, he now talks about his younger bro as if he were still around.

"Rico went through a cooking phase," Bobby said. "He bought all kinds of pots, pans, utensils and cook books. He had a beef specialty. I admired his zest for cooking although I must say that he was a better actor than a cook. Both of us love to eat, though. He suggested that we add as many kinds of snacks as we could to Fry This and not limit it to the typical squid balls and barbecue.

"The presentation of our *pica-pica* is unique. Imagine mango cheesecake *lumpia*-style and sushi inside coated balls."

Rico's favorite is the sushi balls while Bobby goes for the crispy *kangkong*. "You usually get crunchy kangkong with aioli dressing as appetizer. Now you can get it from our food stand.

"We have four four outlets—at SM City Food Court, SM City Southmall Food Court, Robinson's Place Ermita and Ash Creek Ortigas Avenue. Our prices range from P17 to P40.

"Rico wanted us to get a female endorser. That's now under negotiation." Bobby told me Rico's personal choice of endorser and if that pretty young thing agrees to endorse Fry This, it will make the biz sizzle even more. She's so hot! You see her billboards everywhere but she keeps herself scarce. Make a wild guess. The wildest guess you can make.

Bobby revealed, "My girfriend stays in Davao. I fly there to see her when I can and sometimes she comes over to visit me. Having a long-distance relationship is not easy but it also has its rewards."

I told him I used to have the same kind of setup. The nice thing about a long-distance love affair is that it does not require day-to-day maintenance. You don't get on each other's nerves because you're not always together.

Thanks, Bobby! You got the right ingredients and recipe for a delicious food biz and a fun-filled friendship. I'm sure Rico's shining down on you and feeling so proud that you're shining on your own.

Personal

A.V., can't thank you enough for reminding me how to blush. I almost thought I had forgotten how.

For feedback, e-mail friends_at_dsquare@yahoo.com

"YAN ANG BUSINESSMEN." Partners and brothers Rico and Bobby Yan.

THEATRE MALL

1 40 DAYS AND 40 NIGHTS
11:05, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50
R 18

2 RESIDENT EVIL
10:50, 1:00, 3:10, 5:20, 7:30, 9:40
P 13

All Reserved Seating P120.00

MUSIC MUSEUM

JUNE 1, 2002 RETROSPECT 9:00 PM
JUNE 8 & 15 REIGNE ON TOUR (Regine Velasquez) 9:00 PM

It's Great To Be Smart!
Almost
7
MILLION
SUBSCRIBERS
Simply our lowest
SMART Buddy
Nokia 3310
NOW
ONLY
P4,690
SMART

In celebration of almost 7 million subscribers*, SMART lets you end your summer in style!

Buy a SMART Buddy Nokia 3310 celfone kit for only P4,690.00!

You can also get a chance to win P300.00 worth of Call & Text Credits weekly, a Digital or Home Theater Showcase monthly, or drive home the SUV of your choice in the Grand Draw.

Hurry! Get a SMART Buddy Nokia 3310 celfone kit at your nearest SMART celfone dealer today!

Promo is good until June 30, 2002.

For questions, comments, or concerns, you may call the SMART Hotline at 888-1111, send a text message to 888 (P1.00 per message sent in excess of the FREE TEXT allocation), e-mail us at customercare@smart.com.ph, or visit the SMART Wireless Center nearest you.

*On SMART's Network: SMART Gold, SMART AGeS, SMART Buddy and Talk N' Text Subscribers

NOKIA
CONNECTING PEOPLE

SMART
Simply Amazing!

Per DTI-NCR Permit Nos. 0581 and 2061, Series of 2002.

Available At All TSI, ADI, COMWORKS, SEMICON, QUICK COMM, And EXCELL Outlets Nationwide.

DELL™
Latitude V700
Business-Class Quality at Great Value
Call us today to speak with an expert about the notebook that's right for you
INTEGRATED COMPUTER SYSTEMS, INC. (ICS)
Tel. 727-3801 Website: www.ics.com.ph

TUESDAY,
JUNE 4, 2002

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BUSINESS
Editor Raul O. Marcelo *Assistant Editor* Corrie S. Narisma

Are you pumped up to win?
Gas Cash Dash
You can still hit the jackpot and win thousands in cash or a Petron car showcase in our Grand Draw.
Petron

MVP buys time in fight to keep PLDT

By Doris C. Dumlao
and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

PANGILINAN

THE GROUP of embattled executive Manuel V. Pangilinan successfully stalled the approval of the sale of First Pacific Co. Ltd.'s stake in PLDT and Bonifacio Land Co. to taipan John Gokongwei.

The board of First Pacific yesterday agreed in their meeting in Hong Kong to further evaluate the Gokongwei group's buyout offer for its 24.4-percent stake in the local telecommunications giant and a 50-percent interest in property developer Bonifacio Land Co.

After deliberating for about seven hours on the proposed offer as well as the opposition filed by the group of Manila-based officials led by Pangilinan—who is also chief executive of both PLDT and BLC parent firm Metro Pacific Corp.—the board agreed to appoint advisers to study the Gokongwei offer.

In Manila, officials supportive of Pangilinan, or MVP to his colleagues, continued their efforts to put up a consortium that would counter Gokongweis' offer, attracting new potential allies such as the Ayala group and retail tycoon Henry Sy, who indicated fresh interest in the BLC component, well-placed industry sources said yesterday.

First Gentleman Mike Arroyo is reportedly dipping his hands as well into the latest takeover battle by throwing his support to Pangilinan.

An INQUIRER source said Arroyo had pledged to help Pangilinan keep his post at PLDT. Arroyo could prove to be an invaluable ally to Pangilinan considering that the government still controlled some stake in PLDT that could prove crucial especially in a proxy war.

The source said that government support could be key if Gokongwei hurdles the defenses raised by Pangilinan to parry the hostile takeover.

Pangilinan's group is expected to cite the conflict-of-interest provision under Article V of PLDT's corporate rules.

Individuals engaged in any business (at least 10-percent equity) that competes with or is antagonistic to PLDT and its subsidiaries are disqualified from sitting as director of the company. Under this provision, PLDT's board may take into account such factors as business and family relationships in determining whether a nominee is a controlling person or beneficial owner of a rival firm.

This is the same poison pill that Andres Soriano III used to prevent Gokongwei from sitting on the board of San Miguel Corp. Gokongwei owns food giant Universal Robina Corp.

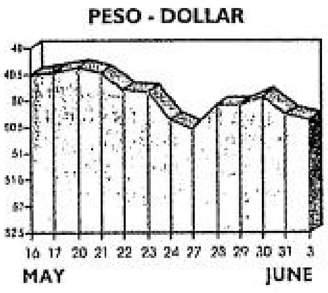
Pangilinan is also banking on the change of control provision that gives existing shareholders the right of first refusal on any hostile offer from a rival firm. This provision, however, presupposes that PLDT's other shareholders have the money to at least match Gokongwei's.

Company sources said that during the meeting in Hong Kong, the Gokongwei camp insisted that

MVP/ B4

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



GRAPHS BY ROBERT ANDRES

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱ 50.360 = $1
As of 5 p.m., June 3, 2002

¥ 124.28 = $1
As of 5 p.m., June 3, 2002

GOLD: $326.70/327.20
per ounce Hong Kong, June 3, 2002

STOCK MARKET

Shares up 0.5%

SHARE prices closed 0.5 percent higher yesterday with interest focused on the expected sale by Hong Kong's First Pacific Co. of its stake in PLDT, brokers said.

"This is the only thing exciting for the market," said Enrique Santa Ana of DBS Vickers Securities.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index rose 6.26 points to 1,321.26.

AFP

Have You Herd?!
The DHL Jumbo Box is export made easy!
It's simple, convenient and affordable!
DHL JUMBO BOX
DHL JUMBO BOX

FREE Jumbo Elephant
DHL JUMBO Junior
DHL JUMBO BOX
JUMBO BOX

FREE Jumbo stuff toy every time you send a Jumbo Box. Get them now!

Simple to use
Just pack, close and send. DHL does the rest!

Made convenient with two sizes to choose from
To suit your needs, there is the Jumbo Box for shipments up to 25 kgs. and the Jumbo Junior for shipments up to 10 kgs.

Now, more affordable
Our prices have been reduced to simply follow four flat fees for 4 different zones: Asia, Europe, America and the rest of the world. No additional costs!

For promo inquiries, call our 24-Hour Customer Hotline (632) 811-7000.

Start collecting, NOW!
Simply send a Jumbo Box or two Jumbo Junior Boxes. Fill in the entry form, attach the photocopy of your AWB and send to: DHL MARKETING, DHL House 2306 Chino Roces Avenue, Kayamanan C, Makati City, 1231 or fax to : (632) 811-7169. And we'll send your free toy within two weeks from date of submission.

- Jumbo Junior Toy available for shipments made from May 9 to 29
- Jumbo Toy available for shipments from May 30 to June 19
- Jumbo and Jumbo Junior Toys available for shipments made from June 20 to July 12

Promo runs from May 9 to July 12, 2002.

HURRY! Collect a whole herd of Jumbo toys, today!

DHL
WORLDWIDE EXPRESS®

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0781, Series of 2002.

LOOKING FOR A LARGE, STABLE AND STRONG INSURANCE COMPANY TO TRUST?
Just call Nippon Life—the world's largest life insurance company.*
*Fortune Magazine, July 2001
Call: 753-2151 (ext. 412)

Nippon Life Philippines
Nothing can be more secure
www.nipponlife-phil.com.ph

Law blow

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

NOBODY can say if, right after news broke out on the fight for control of the P300-billion company PLDT, the lawyers of John Gokongwei Jr. and Manuel Pangilinan already made the down payment on their dream helicopters.

I'm just certain that legions of salesmen, selling all sorts of toys for the big boys, will trade their grandmothers to talk to those lawyers for a few minutes in the elevator.

By now, a week after the news erupted, the lawyers must already be expecting a windfall. It looks like the fight between Gokongwei and Pangilinan for control of PLDT boils down to legality. The lawyers, in short, are going to be very happy.

Curiously quiet in this multibillion deal, nevertheless, is this cute administration of Gloriaetta. At the center of the battle for PLDT is a question of policy.

How will it affect the government's policy to promote competition in our backward telecommunications sector? Corollary to that: Is Transportation Secretary Pantaleon "Bebot" Alvarez also smiling like the lawyers?

* * *

THAT perhaps I cannot bet on with manhood. Yesterday, the Commission on Appointments treated Bebot with another low blow, another by-pass, only his fifth!

Reports initially had it that the Palace was trying to railroad Bebot's confirmation despite the big controversy over Piatco, which is building the Naia Terminal 3. Bebot allegedly has, er, "close ties" with Piatco, to put it kindly.

But yesterday, the CA got an affidavit from a certain Dr. Norbert Loesth, a German, who worked with Piatco as a consultant of Fraport, the German partner of Piatco in the terminal project.

In effect, the affidavit said the chief financial officer of Fraport, a certain Johannes Endler, confirmed that Piatco paid money to Bebot. It was done in a meeting with Gloria Tan Climaco, who was assigned to review the Piatco contract.

In that same meeting, according to the affidavit, were Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo and Chief Presidential Legal Consultant Avelino Cruz.

* * *

ANYWAY, like it or not, although it's highly possible that Bebot will like it very much, a big deal like this one on PLDT, which owns more than 90 percent of the telephone lines in the country, somewhat needs the blessings of the government.

Here, PLDT is an institution, in the league of Meralco and PAL. Both these companies already hit the news for possible takeovers. Nobody bothered with PLDT. Maybe that's why Gokongwei took the initiative by going directly to the Salim group.

That may have something to do with the Singapore connection. Gokongwei has big investments in Singapore in partnership with an investment company owned by the Singapore government.

I heard that, from the Gokongwei side, somebody is also massaging somebody in this cute administration. Word in business is that the person has direct access to the Palace. The connection helped Gloriaetta send home the man named Band . . . Wrist Band.

Money makes the world go around, as they say, but it so happens that both Gokongwei and Pangilinan have the financial clout. Nobody expects Pangilinan to roll over and let Gokongwei have his way. Clout for financial clout, it's an even match.

* * *

JUST who will get the blessings of the Palace between Pangilinan and Gokongwei, if you ask me, may have the edge in getting control of PLDT.

For one, the government has one seat in the 13-seat PLDT board. First Pacific, which is selling out to Gokongwei, has six of those, including the seats of Tonyboy Cojuangco and Al Yuchengco.

Cojuangco and Yuchengco are said to be allied with Pangilinan. Well, Cojuangco remains the PLDT chair, as part of the deal when he sold out to Pangilinan, who represented the Hong Kong-based First Pacific, which is selling to Gokongwei.

But Gokongwei can always forge a deal with them. Yuchengco can keep the juicy insurance deals with PLDT, for instance, although Gokongwei has close ties with Robert Coyiuto, who is Yuchengco's mortal enemy, also thanks to the insurance business.

What I'm saying is, either Pangilinan or Gokongwei may still have use for that one seat of the government to control PLDT. So far, the Palace is quiet. Does it mean neutral? Not if that connection from the north succeeds!

* * *

IN the meantime, therefore, it's a legal battle that looms. Going for Pangilinan, who apparently still has the backing of the PLDT board, should be the by-laws of PLDT itself. They don't allow any PLDT competitor to sit in the board.

That blow from the by-laws, for Gokongwei, must be deja vu. In the 1970s, he engaged in a similar dogfight for a San Miguel board seat, which was then still controlled by the Sorianos. He could not sit in the board for the same reason—no competitor please.

Incidentally, Gokongwei's lawyers came from a law firm in which a certain Hernando Perez was a partner. Together, they went all the way to the Supreme Court. Today, that Perez is known to us as Nani. He only happens to be the justice secretary.

This time, nevertheless, Gokongwei is not just after a board seat. He is after the entire company. If he controls the whole thing, naturally, nothing and nobody can stop him from changing the by-laws.

That's why the lawyers are having a lot of fun. It's a question of legality for now. Of course, after that the question of policy must arise. Does the government really want competing companies to be controlled by one group?

Finance focus: Collect more, spend less

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE DEPARTMENT of Finance said yesterday it would set in motion aggressive measures to prop up the government's revenues or to tighten spending in the remaining months of the year.

The government is trying to improve its collections and cut spending to keep its budget deficit below its target.

In an interview, Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said he would meet with his undersecretaries, including the heads of the Bureaus of Internal Revenue, Customs and Treasury, to come up with measures to arrest the government's declining collections.

A finance official revealed that an increasing shortfall in the government's collections, particularly of the BIR, was already worrying the government.

"If the trend continues and the BIR could not deliver, then we must do something with the expenditures. Otherwise, we would have a huge deficit to face," he said on condition of anonymity.

Camacho declined to share his plans on how to beef up revenue, although he admitted one option was to borrow more from the market through special bonds like the upcoming retail treasury bonds.

The Bureau of Treasury said it would hold a book-building exercise on June 7 for its planned retail bond flotation later this month of over P9 billion.

Deputy Treasurer Ed Mendiola said in a statement the government would offer three-, four-, and five-year papers with a minimum size of P3 billion each.

The bond would be available to the public in a minimum denomination of P5,000. The papers' coupon rates would be determined at the book-building.

The underwriters for the offering are Development Bank of the Philippines, Land Bank of the Philippines, First Metro Investment Corp., BPI Capital Corp., BDO Capital and Investment Corp. and PCI Capital Corp.

The retail bond issue is aimed at boosting the national government's general fund.

The government overshot its budget deficit ceiling by 15.6 percent in the first quarter of the year to P61.208 billion, partly due to poor tax collections.

EIB ready to settle Urban claims ahead of schedule

THE EXPORT and Industry Bank said yesterday it was prepared to hasten the payment of the first-year repayment notes under the three-year liability servicing plan of Urban Bank Inc. and Urbancorp Investments Inc. rehabilitation plan due on Sept. 13 this year.

"UBI/UII's rehabilitation is well on track, and EIB is compliant with the terms and conditions of the program," EIB said in a statement.

In a report to the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp., EIB said it "is contemplating to discount, at prevailing market rates, the second-year repayment notes due in September 2003.

The bank said with liquid funds of around P3 billion, it was confident it would not have to draw on any committed capital funds and that there was no imperative to draw on the standby funds from PDIC.

Since the turnover of Urban Bank and Urbancorp on Aug. 8 last year, EIB fully serviced the first P500,000 payments due on Sept. 14 last year amounting to a total of P1.2 billion and $3.14 million.

To date, EIB continues to service the 6-percent interest due on obligations.

On Jan. 31, 2002, the SEC approved the merger of Urban Bank and Urbancorp with EIB.

EIB is set to open six more former Urban Bank branches on top of the four already reopened.

BERKLEY INTERNATIONAL PLANS, INC.

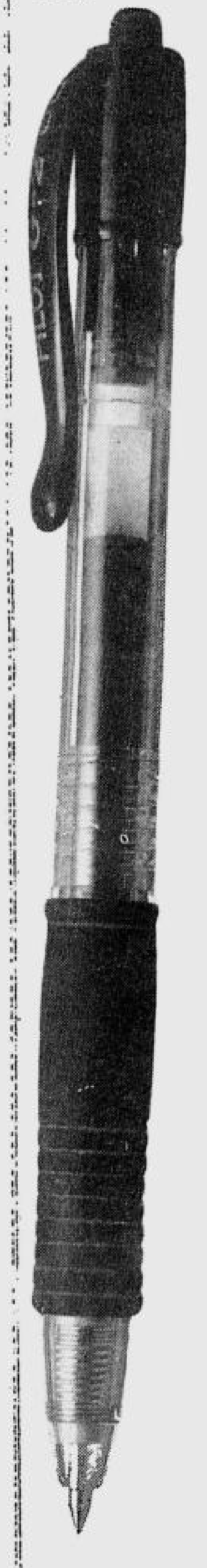
Financial Condition
As of December 31, 2001

ASSETS	
Cash and Cash Equivalents	P 11,474,102
Investment in Government and Other Securities	43,115,409
Investment in Trust Funds	593,301,761
Investment in Family First, Inc.	97,187,243
Receivables	20,066,444
Due from Affiliates	28,608,335
Property and Equipment - net	1,219,383
Other Assets	6,223,164
TOTAL ASSETS	P 801,195,841
LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Accrued Expenses and Other Liabilities	P 25,680,849
Due to Affiliates	1,247,243
Actuarial Reserve Liabilities	618,416,182
Deferred Income Tax Liability	47,090
	645,391,364
Stockholders' Equity	
Capital Stock - P1,000 par value	
Authorized - 240,000 shares	
Issued - 120,000 shares	120,000,000
Additional Paid in Capital	4,076,067
Retained Earnings	31,728,410
	155,804,477
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY	P 801,195,841

BERKLEY INTERNATIONAL PLANS, INC.

Trust Fund Statement
As of December 31, 2001

ASSETS	
Cash and Cash Equivalents	P 20,486,336
Investment in Commercial Papers	4,898,130
Investment in Government Securities	550,180,338
Interest Receivables	18,239,585
TOTAL ASSETS	P 593,804,389
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Accrued Trust Fees Payable	P 502,628
	502,628
Equity	
Fund Balance	545,339,383
Income	47,962,378
	593,301,761
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	P 593,804,389



SuperBrands Survey 2001
voted by readers
SUPER BRAND
Gold 2001
Reader's Digest Philippines
PILOT
Smooth Advancement in writing technology
G-2
Retractable BALL POINT PENS

Retractable ball point pen, with gel type of ink is a totally new dimension in writing, G-2 is engineered to the highest specification to the best writing performance for the 21st century.

Philippine Exclusive Distributor:
COSMOS BAZAR, INC.
571 Q. PAREDES ST., BINONDO, MANILA
P.O. BOX 1601 Tels.: 243-6912 to 14 Fax: 242-5671
PILOT CORPORATION
Tokyo, Japan

CLEAN PURE WATER?
EQUIPMENT & CONTAINERS
CALL US & WE'LL
DELIVER
Call us: SHAHUM INTERNATIONAL, INC.
MANDALUYONG: Tels.: 533-0511 • 533-3241 • 535-2254
MAKATI: Tels.: 896-9051 • 895-22-80

VISIT ASIA'S TWO LARGEST INDUSTRIAL TRADE EVENTS THIS JULY!

ASIA'S LARGEST INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION ON ROTATING EQUIPMENT; FLUID, AIR & GAS HANDLING SYSTEMS WITH SPECIAL FEATURE ON WATER TECHNOLOGY; ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT TECHNOLOGY; CHEMICAL TECHNOLOGY; CONTROL & INSTRUMENTATION; FLUID POWER AND POWER TRANSMISSION TECHNOLOGY

SOUTH EAST ASIA'S LARGEST INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION ON HEATING, VENTILATION, AIR-CONDITIONING, AIR FILTRATION & PURIFICATION, REFRIGERATION AND BUILDING AUTOMATION CONTROLS WITH DEBUT SHOW ON CLEANING TECHNOLOGY

9 - 12 JULY 2002 • 10AM - 6PM • SINGAPORE EXPO

WATERTEC ASIA 2002 · ENVIROTEC ASIA 2002 · CHEMTEC ASIA 2002 · POWER ASIA 2002 · POWER TRANSMISSION ASIA 2002 · PSA 2002
www.psa2002.com
HALLS 3 & 4

HVAC ASIA 2002
INCORPORATING AIR FILTRATION & PURIFICATION ASIA 2002
REFRIGERATION ASIA 2002
CleanTec ASIA 2002
www.hvacasia2002.com
HALL 5

- Over 1,000 exhibitors from 70 countries/areas
- 11 National/Group Pavilions
- A total exhibition space of 20,000 sqm
- Officially supported by 43 international & local trade, professional & government organisations

- Over 200 exhibitors from 20 countries/areas
- 6 National/Group Pavilions
- A total exhibition space of 5,000 sqm
- Officially supported by 13 international & local trade, professional & government organisations

Awarded the Approved International Fair (AIF) status by
International Enterprise Singapore (formerly known as Singapore Trade Development Board)

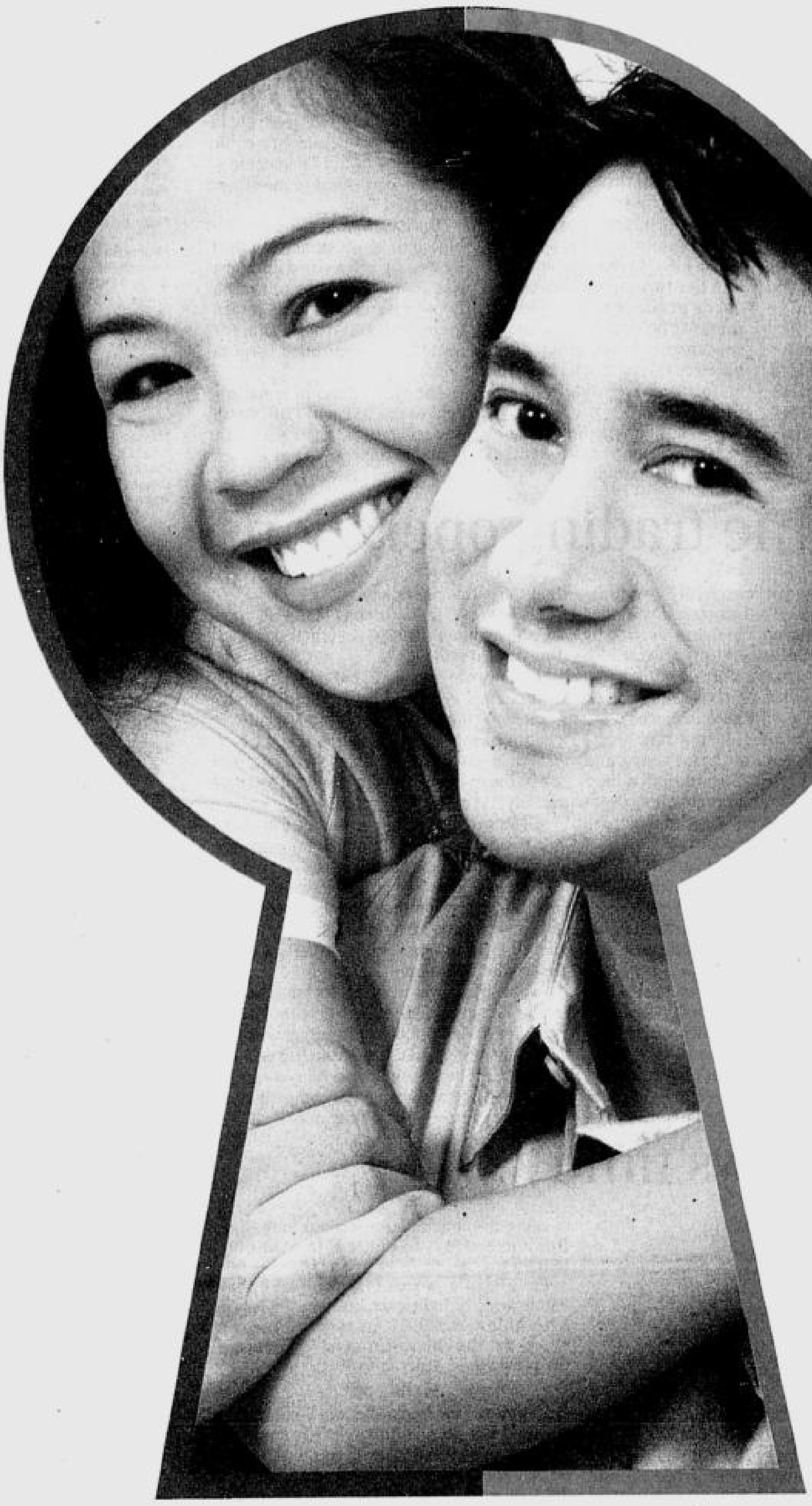
EXCITING LINE-UP OF EVENTS:
• One-on-One Business Meetings • Plant Visits • Seminars • Exhibitors' Technical Presentations

A PERFECT VENUE TO:
• Meet and cultivate business contacts with world leading manufacturers, suppliers and distributors
• Source for the latest products and services • Seek agency representation •
• Share knowledge and technological know-how

CONNECT WITH THE INDUSTRY'S LEADERS! PLAN YOUR VISIT TODAY!

For more information, please contact
HQ LINK PHILIPPINES, INC.
Unit B, 8F, Cacho-Gonzalez Building, 101 Aguirre Street, Legaspi Village
122a Makati City, Metro Manila, Philippines
Tel: (63-2) 810 5685 Fax: (63-2) 815 3152 Email: hqlinkphilippines@hqlink.com Website: www.hqlink.com

HAPPINESS IS....



HOME RATE PROTECT

Our most irresistible home loan just got better!

ENJOY A 9.5% INTEREST RATE FOR THE FIRST YEAR.
NEVER TO EXCEED 15% P.A. FOR THE NEXT 4 YEARS.
OR
13% P.A. LOCKED IN FOR 5 YEARS.

Either way, these options are created to suit your needs.
And to protect you from a sudden rise in interest rates.

Goes without saying,
when people are
working harder for you,
you're in good hands.

Hurry and visit your nearest Metrobank or PSBank branch.

METROBANK
The Country's No. 1 Bank
898-8929; 898-8701; 898-8702; 840-5771
Visit our website at www.metrobank.com.ph

PSBank
PHILIPPINE SAVINGS BANK
A METROBANK SUBSIDIARY
843-2215, 843-1672, 885-8244, 843-2038
Visit our website at www.psbank.com.ph

FOR 2001

PNB cuts net loss to ₱4.13B

By Elena R. Torrijos

PHILIPPINE National Bank, the country's sixth biggest lender, reported that its consolidated audited net loss last year was reduced by 31 percent at P4.13 billion from P5.97 billion the previous year.

Based on its financial statements filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, PNB's smaller net loss was largely because of a P1.114-billion benefit from income tax and lower provision for probable loan and other losses.

Compared to its P4.8 billion in provisions in 2000, PNB provisions last year dropped by 52 percent to P2.398 billion.

However, PNB suffered a net interest income deficit of P409.77 million from a P2.785-million net interest income the previous year.

This came as interest income fell 25 percent to P11.342 billion while interest expense dropped by a mild 4.9 percent to P11.751 billion.

PNB president Lorenzo Tan said the bank was targeting to further cut its net loss this year to P2.7 billion and post a turnaround after at least three years.

PNB said that its consolidated financial statements do not reflect the effect of the quasi-reorganization of the bank as outlined in a memorandum of agreement signed by PNB, its majority shareholders and government financial institutions early last month.

Under the MOA, Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. would convert approximately P7.8 billion of loans to PNB into equity or into tier-two capital convertible bonds or convertible preferred shares at P40 per share with the concurrence of the group of tobacco magnate Lucio Tan, the majority shareholders of the bank.

PNB has outstanding debts to PDIC and the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas amounting to P23.9 billion.

The conversion effectively increases the government's equity in the bank from 17 percent to 45 percent, equivalent to the diluted interest of Tan.

The bank would also offset P10 billion of its obligations to PDIC by writing off verified and past-due loans extended to the national government, local government units and government-owned and -controlled corporations.

The P6.1 billion in remaining debt to the BSP and PDIC would be restructured over a 10-year period at a spread of one percent over 91-day Treasury bills.

More brokers resume trading operations

By Doris C. Dumlao

AFTER the shakeout that started in 1998, the improving business environment has encouraged more brokerage houses to either reactivate or start fresh operations at the Philippine Stock Exchange.

Newest trading participant All Suwerte Securities Corp. started full operations yesterday after earlier buying out the shares and trading license of Visa Securities Corp., while two other local brokerage houses which suspended operations last year have also rejoined the market, bourse officials announced.

PSE president Ernest Leung said King's Power Securities Inc. of Carlos Ching and UPCC Securities Corp. of Edgardo Kalaw have resumed operations, also noting other pending applications for reactivation among those that went dormant in the past.

These three new players brought to 137 the total number of active brokerage houses at the PSE, up from the low of 134 this year but still lower than the 140 membership as of end-2001.

"The entry of All Suwerte is a good sign amid the trend in the past wherein the number of trading participants was on the decline since 1998," Leung said during the new broker's inauguration at the PSE headquarters in Ortigas.

UOB Securities (Philippines) Inc., the local brokerage unit of United Overseas Bank of Singapore, likewise earlier declared its intention to resume operations.

"It's a very clear bottoming out," PSE director and nominee of RCBC Securities Inc. Alicia Rita Arroyo said.

All Suwerte president and majority stockholder Paul Wee said his brokerage house wanted to take a strategic position despite the continued slump in the equities market.

"For us, we want to start earlier so that when the market is on the rise we'll be there already," Wee said.

All Suwerte is the first brokerage firm in the PSE to abide by the P100-million unimpaired capital requirement under the Securities Regulation Code. The group led by Wee, who is also into telecommunications distribution and information technology, is likewise the first to buy out an existing brokerage house under the SRC regime.

Wee's group was at first reluctant to enter the brokerage industry due to the present economic crisis and political unrest that weighed down on the stock market. The group decided to take the plunge, aiming to "play a significant role and stay strong and competitive in the pool of brokerage transactions."

MVP buys time . . .

From page B1

the legal obstacles cited by Pangilinan's group could be easily overcome.

The sources said that Pangilinan's group did not present yet its counter-offer because the consortium was still being structured. The counter-offer will be presented once the package has been finalized, they added.

The MPC board is set to hold a meeting today to discuss its opposition to the sale of the 50-percent stake in BLC. The sources said MPC would block the proposal not only because it would remove a prime asset but likewise disrupt the ongoing debt-reduction process being initiated by the property firm.

Meanwhile, other sources said the Social Security System, which occupies one seat in the PLDT board, was not keen on providing the financial muscle to boost the counter-offer of Pangilinan's camp.

Emerging from the Hong Kong meeting, Pangilinan told reporters: "The board discussed aspects relating to the transaction. We agreed to proceed with the negotiations. It will be appointing advisers to advise the board, therefore we cannot answer any questions relating to the transaction at this time."

Pangilinan's fellow First Pacific executive director Ronald Brown told reporters that the conglomerate was continuing talks with only one potential buyer, but did not identify the group.

JG offer

The amounts involved in the Gokongwei package were: $600 million or about P700 per share for First Pacific's 24.4-percent stake in PLDT and an amount equivalent to P16,000 per square meter for a 50-percent stake in BLC, developer of the 150-hectare Fort Bonifacio Global City.

First Pacific also denied any knowledge of a management buyout being structured by Pangilinan's group, but Manila-based sources said as of yesterday, meetings were still ongoing to finalize a counter-offer.

A source from Dutch financial giant ING Barings, one of First Pacific's biggest creditors, said it was hoping to be appointed as the financial adviser of the Hong Kong-based conglomerate.

The sources said US investment bank JP Morgan, on the other hand, would act as the financial adviser of the counter-offer being structured by the Pangilinan camp after agreeing to provide a $100-million loan facility to Cojuangco.

INQUIRER sources said property companies like Ayala Land Inc. and the SM group have expressed interest in the Bonifacio deal as acceptance of the P16,000/sq. m. offer from the Gokongweis would drive down the Philippine property price benchmark.

Benedict Miranda, a property analyst with international property consulting firm FPDSavills, said such a low valuation would indeed lower the valuation benchmark for urban property prices in Metro Manila. However, he noted that the context of the ongoing sale discussions was that the owners were in duress due to certain financial commitments, thus explaining the willingness to sell at a price below market levels.

Last consummated transactions in the Fort Bonifacio area amounted to P40,000-P50,000/sq. m.

First Pacific, which is controlled by the Salim group of Indonesia, posted a net loss of $1.8 billion in 2001. An asset writedown wiped out the equivalent of all its profit for the previous 14 years.

Hands off

Meantime, the Department of Finance said it would not be meddling with any private transactions, even if it involved the country's largest telecommunications firm and a company in which local banks have billions of pesos in exposure.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said in an interview yesterday that he agreed with Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura that while the rights of local banks should not be affected, the government had nothing to do with transactions among private entities.

"There's no reason for the government to meddle in a private transaction. But whatever is done should not prejudice the creditors," he said.

While Camacho maintained that the DOF would not interfere in any way with any deal First Pacific may have with any group, he did admit that he got in touch with PLDT and Metro Pacific president and chief executive Manuel Pangilinan "just to be informed."

"Not for anything else, but just to be updated on what's happening," he said. ***With a report from Abigail Ho***

DISCLOSURES

RIZAL Commercial Banking Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on June 24, 4 p.m. at the 47/F Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, Makati City. Only stockholders as of May 24 are entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

* * *

ELECTED directors of **Crown Equities Inc.** were Edilberto Javier, George Go, Richard Chiongbian, Patrick Go, Antonio Alvarez, Ricardo Murillo, Jerry Angping, Wilfrido Vergara, Isidro Consunji, Richard Lee, Ramon Recto, Sergio Naranjilla Jr., Carmelito Salazar, Oscar Lopez-Dee and Romuald Dy-Tang.

* * *

ELECTED directors of **PhilWeb.Com Inc.** were Roberto Ongpin, Jaime Gonzalez, Alex Villamar, Ramon Ang, Ronald Arculli, Savio Chow, Fung Ka Bun, Mario Locsin, Jose Mari Moraza, Jen Jen Song, Thomas Tang, K.L. Wong, Craig Ehrlich, Rafael Ortigas Jr. and Tomas Alcantara.

* * *

ELECTED directors of **Ionics Inc.** were Lawrence Qua, Guillermo Luchangco, Leonard Siguion Reyna, Meliton Qua, Raymond Qua, Virginia Judy Dy, Corazon dela Paz, Teh Lin Yang, Edgardo del Fonso and Jan Doets.

* * *

CITYLAND Development Corp. declared a cash dividend of P0.0746 per share in favor of stockholders of record as of June 20, 2002 and shall be payable on July 16.

* * *

FILINVEST Land Inc. increased its authorized capital from P6 billion to P10 billion. Also the number of directors was increased from seven to nine. Elected to the board were Josephine Gotianun Yap, Jonathan Gotianun and Lamberto Un Ocampo. ***Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research***

COUNTRY SHARES
As of June 4, 2002

	BUYING	SELLING
ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB A/B*	1,700,000*	1,700,000
BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB	700,000	740,000
CALATAGAN GOLF CLUB A/B*	75,000	95,000/105,000*
CAMP JOHN HAY	270,000	280,000
CANLUBANG	500,000	-
CAPITOL HILLS	-	115,000
CELEBRITY SPORTS CLUB	175,000	190,000
EAGLE RIDGE A/B*/C**	620,000**	350,000/450,000*/700,000**
EVERCREST A/B*	135,000*	100,000
FONTANA D/C*/B**	-	90,000/150,000*/280,000**
FOREST HILLS A/B*/C**	210,000/250,000**	230,000/260,000*
MAKATI SPORTS A/B*	250,000/260,000*	270,000/380,000*
MANILA POLO CLUB	-	2,900,000
MANILA SOUTHWOODS A/B*	630,000	650,000/750,000*
METROPOLITAN A/B*	-	120,000/125,000*
MIMOSA IND./C2* C3**	120,000/200,000*/275,000**	155,000/225,000*/300,000**
MT. MALARAYAT A/C*	-	350,000/625,000*
ORCHARD A/B*/C**	200,000	230,000/350,000*/425,000**
PUERTO AZUL	-	125,000
QUEZON CITY SPORTS CLUB	200,000	225,000
RIVIERA A/B*	-	185,000/400,000*
ROCKWELL CLUB		475,000
ROYALE TAGAYTAY A/B*/C**		90,000/150,000*/180,000**
SHERWOOD HILLS A/B*/C**	-	130,000/250,000*/350,000**
STA. ELENA GOLF CLUB A/B*	1,625,000	1,750,000
SUBIC BAY IND./CORP.*	290,000*	200,000/300,000*
TAT FILIPINAS GOLF A/B*	-	350,000/550,000*
TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS CC/GOLF*	400,000/650,000*	425,000/500,000*
TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	750,000	800,000
VALLEY VERDE IND.	150,000	170,000
VALLEY GOLF	230,000	-

Available Lessors for Playing Rights: Alabang, Calatagan, Camp John Hay, Canlubang Canyon Woods, The Country Club (Free) Celebrity, Eagleridge, Eastridge, Forest Hills, Makati Sports, Malarayat, Orchard, Rivera, Sta. Elena, Southwoods (Free), Tagaytay Highlands and Midlands, Valley Golf, Wack Wack, Rockwell and Others
Need Lessor: Manila Golf (Urgent), Eagleridge B
Rush Sale! Good Price! Woodlands Log Cabin 3 Bedrooms
Selling: Villas, Belleview, Pinecrest and Woodlands in Tagaytay Highlands
Lots: Eagleridge, Forest Hills, Punta Fuego, Royale Tagaytay and Southwoods
Please Call Tel. Nos. 853-1626/27; Globe 0917-8346825 or 0916-8514374

G & W clubshares
SEC License Broker No.: A-17597
As of June 3-4, 2002

CLUB	SELLER	BUYER
Alabang Country Club "A"	1,650,000	-
Alta Vista	-	300,000
Baguio Country Club	740,000	700,000
Camp John Hay	295,000	270,000
Capitol Hills Golf & CC A/B*	130,000	150,000*
Canyon Woods	190,000	-
Calatagan Golf Club	100,000	-
City Sports Club	830,000	Pls. Call
Eagleridge "A"/"C"*	340,000/600,000*	330,000
Eastridge	200,000	-
Evercrest	100,000	-
Fairways & Blue Waters	500,000	-
Fontana D/C	90,000/140,000	Pls. Call
Forest Hills "A"	230,000	200,000
Manila Golf	-	11,000,000
Manila Polo	2,800,000	2,700,000
Makati Sports Club	290,000	250,000
Manila Southwoods A/B*	650,000	700,000*
Metropolitan Club	100,000	90,000
Mimosa Golf Ind./C3*	140,000/300,000*	-
Mt. Malarayat	350,000	-
Phil. Columbian	80,000	60,000
Punta Fuego	Pls. Call	Pls. Call
Puerto Azul "A"/"B"	100,000/Pls. Call	-
Quezon City Sports Club "A"	240,000	-
Riviera Golf "A"/"C"*	190,000/450,000*	-
Riviera Golf "B"	250,000	-
Rockwell	400,000	325,000
Royale Tagaytay A/C	90,000/140,000	70,000
Sherwoods	105,000	-
Subic Bay Yacht Club "Corp"	330,000	-
Subic Golf	180,000	-
Tagaytay Country Club	430,000	400,000
Tagaytay Highlands Golf & CC	-	800,000
Tagaytay Midlands	780,000	750,000
Valley Golf & CC	-	250,000
Valle Verde (Indv.)	160,000	150,000
Wack Wack Golf	7,200,000	-

FREE PLAYING RIGHTS AVAILABLE Looking For Forest Hills Inactive Share
TL 6836309/Tel. No. 6359918/6359430/6359725/09191704104/09171818914
Mon. - Fri.: 9:00 am - 6:00 pm Sat.: 8:00 am - 12:00 pm
Unit 1402 Medical Plaza Ortigas, San Miguel Avenue, Pasig City

GOLFERS
CLUB SHARES, INC.
SEC LICENSE # A 1998-2129
AS OF JUNE 3, 2002

	SELLING	BUYING
1. ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB "A"	1,700,000	
2. ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB "B"	1,750,000	1,700,000
3. BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB	750,000	650,000
4. CALATAGAN GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	100,000	80,000
5. CAMP JOHN HAY	300,000	250,000
6. CANLUBANG GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	600,000	550,000
7. CAPITOL HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	120,000	
8. CELEBRITY CLUB	190,000	175,000
9. COUNTRY CLUB AT TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS		370,000
10. CLUB FILIPINO	210,000	190,000
11. EASTRIDGE GOLF CLUB "A"	200,000	
12. EAGLERIDGE GOLF CLUB "A"	350,000	330,000
13. EVERCREST GOLF CLUB "A"	100,000	
14. FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	220,000	200,000
15. FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "B"	280,000	
16. FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "C"	500,000	
17. MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "A"		250,000
18. MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "B"	280,000	
19. MANILA GOLF CLUB (IND)		10,500,000
20. MANILA POLO CLUB		2,800,000
21. MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF CLUB "A"	650,000	620,000
22. MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF CLUB "B"	750,000	700,000
23. METROPOLITAN CLUB "A"	100,000	60,000
24. METROPOLITAN CLUB "B"	150,000	
25. MT MALARAYAT GOLF CLUB (IND.)	350,000	
26. ORCHARD GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	220,000	200,000
27. ORCHARD GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "B"	250,000	
28. ORCHARD GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "C"	370,000	
29. QUEZON CITY SPORTS CLUB	230,000	210,000
30. RIVIERA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	200,000	
31. RIVIERA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "B"	250,000	210,000
32. STA. ELENA GOLF CLUB "A"	1,800,000	
33. SUBIC BAY YACHT CLUB (IND)	250,000	
34. TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS INT'L GOLF CLUB		850,000
35. TAGAYTAY MIDLAND		750,000
36. VALLE VERDE COUNTRY CLUB	170,000	
37. VALLEY GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	300,000	240,000
38. WACK WACK GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB		6,500,000

ASSIGNMENT OF PLAYING RIGHTS PLS. CALL
JUST S. VIRAY — TRADING MANAGER
PAUL CORTEZ — PRESIDENT
LALA SALAO / LYDIA HASEGAWA
TEL. NOS. 8175655 / 8121066 / 8193560
7517982 CP#0917-8114892

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Monday, June 3, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	20.5	20.75	20.5	20.75	396,700
Banco Filipino Sav & Mort	90	90	90	90	200
Bank of the Phil. Islands	56	58	56	57.5	436,000
Citystate Savings Bank	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	41.5	41.5	40	41.5	279,700
First E-Bank Corp.	1.74	1.74	1.74	1.74	93,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	39	39.5	38	39	135,400
Prudential Bank	425	425	425	425	2,700
Philippine National Bank	31	34	31	33	75,500
Phil. Savings Bank	28	28.5	28	28.5	2,000
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	12	12	12	12	4,600
Security Bank Corp.	14	14.25	14	14.25	9,400
Union Bank of the Phil.	23.75	24	23.75	24	54,100
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Filipino Fund Inc.	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	10,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1465	1465	1465	1465	2,860
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1130	1145	1130	1145	3,350
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.81	0.81	0.73	0.77	14,380,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	670	675	665	665	650
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.041	0.042	0.04	0.04	3,500,000
Piltel	0.44	0.47	0.44	0.45	3,210,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	445	450	437.5	445	107,110
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.017	0.017	0.016	0.017	28,200,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	22.5	22.5	22.5	22.5	50,700
Manila Electric Co. B	31.5	31.5	31	31	605,800
Petron Corp.	1.84	1.84	1.7	1.74	7,300,000
Salcon Power Corp.	1.66	1.66	1.66	1.66	66,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	80,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	21,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.55	2.6	2.55	2.6	77,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.25	0.42	0.25	0.4	1,110,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	2.24	2.24	2.24	2.24	173,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	900,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.66	1.66	1.66	1.66	16,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.7	0.7	0.68	0.68	210,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.28	2.28	2.28	2.28	13,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.5	13.5	13.5	13.5	236,200
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	33.5	34	33.5	34	307,000
RFM Corp.	1.28	1.28	1.28	1.28	5,000
San Miguel Corp. A	47	48	47	48	155,700
San Miguel Corp. B	53.5	54.5	52.5	54.5	922,300
Universal Robina Corp.	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4	268,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	5.9	5.9	5.7	5.7	510,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.32	2.32	2.32	2.32	80,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.25	0.27	0.25	0.27	360,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	13,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.75	2.75	2.6	2.6	160,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	7	9.3	7	9.3	16,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.51	0.51	0.51	0.51	2,070,000
A Brown Company Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	10,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	330,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	200,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	300,000
Ebecom Holdings Inc.	5.7	5.7	5.5	5.5	5,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.4	1.42	1.4	1.42	58,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	22.5	22.75	22.5	22.5	238,200
Forum Pacific Inc.	0.135	0.16	0.135	0.16	510,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	250,000
Ionics Inc.	6.8	6.9	6.8	6.9	15,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.78	1.78	1.78	1.78	40,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	300,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.77	0.79	0.77	0.79	1,130,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.52	0.52	0.51	0.51	30,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.33	0.35	0.31	0.32	19,880,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.0975	0.0975	0.0975	0.0975	300,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Corro-Coat Inc.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	3,000
Jardine Davies Inc.	21	21	20	20	2,900
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.58	0.6	0.58	0.6	50,000
Pryce Corp.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	2,300,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.42	0.42	0.39	0.42	70,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.49	0.49	0.45	0.45	140,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	10,000
Grand Plaza Hotel Corp.	10	10	10	10	2,000
Philippine Racing Club	5	5	5	5	1,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp.(Pdr)	28	28	28	28	100,400
Equitable PCI Bank-War	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	220,000
Globe Telecom Hldg. (Pdr)	855	855	855	855	550
Jollibee Warrants	13.25	13.25	13.25	13.25	3,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.5	10.5	10.25	10.25	2,900
PLDT (10% Pref) Series X	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,400
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	400
Philweb.Com Inc.-Warrants	0.0042	0.0042	0.004	0.004	21,000,000
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	9	9	8	8	69,000
Far Eastern University	420	420	420	420	200
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	7	7.2	7	7.1	1,789,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	1,890,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	100,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2.8	2.8	2.75	2.8	2,367,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.21	0.22	0.21	0.22	1,500,000
Primetown Property Group	0.47	0.47	0.47	0.47	100,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	2.1	2.1	2	2	265,000
SM Development Corp.	0.9	0.9	0.89	0.89	50,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.9	6	5.9	5.9	343,000
MINING					
Itogon-Suyoc Mines Inc.	0.04	0.041	0.039	0.041	5,100,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.22	0.22	0.215	0.215	2,560,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.22	0.23	0.22	0.225	1,490,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.0048	0.0048	0.0048	0.0048	2,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	31,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	200,000
OIL					
Interport Res.	0.0034	0.0034	0.0032	0.0032	5,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	179,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	67,000,000
Pacifica	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	1,000,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	1,507,510	63,347,695.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	125,683,510	189,602,455.00
PRO	8,404,000	22,739,310.00
Mining	42,350,000	1,280,550.00
OIL	252,000,000	914,400.00
GRAND TOTALS:	429,945,020	277,884,410.00

	AVERAGES	
Banks & Fin Svc	545.88	UP 13.51
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,782.39	DOWN 10.05
PRO	599.16	UP 7.83
Mining	1,414.44	DOWN 19.85
OIL	1.29	UP 0.03
All Shares Index	761.41	UP 3.63
Composite	1,321.26	UP 6.26

NO. OF ADVANCES: 21; NO. OF DECLINES: 29; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 53; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 103; NO. OF TRADES: 1,934

DISCLOSURES

June 3, 2002

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.071352	1.000000	50.0340
Japan	Yen	0.008623	0.008049	0.4027
United Kingdom	Pound	1.561067	1.457100	72.9045
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.137360	0.128212	6.4150
Switzerland	Franc	0.682651	0.637186	31.8810
Canada	Dollar	0.701285	0.654579	32.7512
Singapore	Dollar	0.598990	0.559097	27.9739
Australia	Dollar	0.605626	0.565291	28.2838
Bahrain	Dinar	2.841934	2.652661	132.7232
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.285687	0.266660	13.3421
Brunei	Dollar	0.597319	0.557538	27.8959
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000123	0.000115	0.0058
Thailand	Baht	0.025315	0.023629	1.1823
UAE	Dirham.	0.291707	0.272279	13.6232
Korea	Won	0.000886	0.000827	0.0414
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.933400	46.7017
Argentina	Peso	0.298627	0.280112	14.1158
Brazil	Real	0.425139	0.396825	19.8547
Denmark	Kroner	0.134289	0.125345	6.2715
India	Rupee	0.021882	0.020425	1.0219
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.281935	0.263158	13.1668
Mexico	New Peso	0.111159	0.103756	5.1913
New Zealand	Dollar	0.512633	0.478492	23.9409
Norway	Kroner	0.133760	0.124852	6.2468
Pakistan	Rupee	0.017871	0.016681	0.8346
South Africa	Rand	0.109813	0.102499	5.1284
Sweden	Kroner	0.109897	0.102578	5.1324
Syria	Pound	0.024516	0.022883	1.1449
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.031381	0.029291	1.4655
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000944	0.000881	0.0441

A CHINESE woman sells some plastic toys next to a park in Shanghai. China has spent some 4.6 billion yuan ($554 million) since 1999 on a social security system for the urban poor, which is shaping up as the basic social security net for city dwellers. AFP

Toyota, Honda to shift up to reverse losses in Europe

TOKYO—Japan's top automakers Toyota Motor Corp. and Honda Motor Co. Ltd. said Monday they aimed to turn around losses in Europe by boosting production and sales outlets.

The two firms have enjoyed resounding success in Japan and the United States in recent times but continue to lose money in European countries.

Toyota, the world's third largest carmaker, has launched a string of initiatives to achieve a target of breaking even in Europe in the year to March 2004 after over a decade of red ink.

"Unfortunately, of the three (main markets), Europe is where we are not always coming up with results, but we see the market favorably. We are committed to the European market," Toyota spokesperson Paul Nolasco said.

Toyota hopes to increase European sales to 800,000 vehicles by 2005 from 666,000 in 2001, lifting its market share to 5 percent from under 4 percent.

It plans to assemble 300,000 autos a year in the Czech Republic town of Kolin jointly with PSA Peugeot Citroen of France, of which 100,000 will bear the Toyota brand.

The number of parts sourced from local suppliers will also be increased to cut costs, said Nolasco.

"Toyota has plans to increase purchasing spend in the region this year to 2 billion euros (1.9 billion dollars) from 1.5 billion euros," he said.

Similarly, Honda, Japan's second biggest automaker, wants to wipe out its losses by the year to March 2004, after three straight years of negative numbers.

"With global operations we have been very, very strong in North America and also in Japan," said spokesperson Nagai Masa.

"We are also going very well in Asia as the economies there are recovering. It is only in Europe that we don't see any sales increase so our biggest goal is to grow in that region," he said. **AFP**

Philips to focus on high-end phones to increase margins

SINGAPORE—Dutch consumer electronics giant Philips Electronics NV, which expects its Asian handset shipments to be flat in 2002, plans to focus on selling higher end mobile phones to boost margins.

Europe's largest maker of consumer electronics and the No. 3 of semiconductors sees handset sales of 3.5 million this year, Aaron Boey, the Asia-Pacific vice president for the wireless division, told Reuters in an interview.

"Last year over this year, our volumes will be flat, so one of the ways to generate value would be to improve our product mix—to sell more high-end phones," he said.

Philips was ranked seventh in the Asia-Pacific ex-Japan handset market in the January to March quarter, according to industry estimates.

In 2001, Finland's Nokia, the world's leading handset maker, had a 24-percent share of the region's market, with Motorola of the United States in second with 22 percent.

South Korea's Samsung and Germany's Siemens took up third and fourth positions, with a 13.7- and 8.5-percent share, respectively.

A total of 92.7 million handsets were sold in the Asia-Pacific ex-Japan region in 2001.

"It will remain tough for Philips despite the good design and technology in their latest range of mobile phones," said Gartner Dataquest analyst Nick Ingelbrecht.

"The only one with any significant margins to speak of is Nokia, and even they are facing tremendous pressures."

Despite many sluggish Asian economies, Boey was confident of sustained demand for expensive handsets like Philips's recently launched fisio 820, which is GPRS and Bluetooth-enabled, with a color screen.

General Packet Radio Service offers high-speed data transmission and is a precursor to third generation mobile technology, while Bluetooth is a low-power, short-range radio link that enables users to exchange and synchronize data without having to cable devices together. *Reuters*

Indonesian minister attacks IMF, says prescriptions are 'dangerous'

JAKARTA—An Indonesian minister on Monday launched a strong attack on the International Monetary Fund, saying its prescriptions are dangerous for the country.

National Development Planning Minister Kwik Kian Gie says the government should not extend its contract with the IMF when it expires on Nov. 22 unless it is willing to discuss amicably with the government what it wants in return for the aid.

"Their contract will soon expire. If they can discuss things in a nice way, that will be fine but if they do not want to do so, there should be no effort to extend," Kwik told reporters.

He said the IMF, which is managing a $5-billion aid package for Jakarta, was now "at a loss. They no longer know anything and are seeking things which may endanger Indonesia."

The IMF has coordinated the country's assistance package since 1998.

Kwik, once top economics minister under former President Abdurrahman Wahid, cited the IMF's desire for the government to repay the principal and interest on bonds worth billions of dollars which were issued to recapitalize ailing banks.

"That will kill us," Kwik said.

"The IMF does not care whether it has an effect or not," he added. "Why should they be here?"

Should Indonesia break relations with the IMF, he said it should concentrate on seeking assistance from the World Bank-chaired Consultative Group on Indonesia.

On Saturday, Kwik told a party gathering that the country faced political disarray and bankruptcy as it could no longer control its own fate.

Kwik, quoted by the Jakarta Post, said Indonesia's new colonial master was the IMF.

As a condition of IMF aid, the government must periodically give it a letter of intent with promises on restructuring and reforming the economy.

"If we read the letters of intent, we cannot help but to ask ourselves who is ruling Indonesia . . . the Cabinet or the IMF?" Kwik was quoted as saying. **AFP**

US merger activity seen growing

NEW YORK—US merger activity still is near a seven-year low, but a new study indicates Corporate America's appetite for deals is increasing even as executives are starting to take responsibility for failed mergers.

Nearly 30 percent of roughly 150 Fortune 1,000 executives interviewed recently said they expected to pursue more mergers in the next six months, according to a study being released Thursday by Accenture, a global consulting firm. Only 18 percent expected their deal appetite to decrease from last year.

That is welcome news for starving dealmakers, who have been languishing through the slowest second quarter on record since 1995 when just $54.4 billion worth of deals was announced, according to data from Thomson Research. The reason is an uncertain business climate and growing shareholder backlash against mergers.

In an even more encouraging sign, the study showed about half of the executives interviewed blamed their own poor evaluation of the potential synergies and benefits of a merger for flopped deals.

Justin Jenk, Accenture's head of M&A and corporate strategy, said awareness could ultimately lead executives to focus less on instant bottom line results and more on how to capture synergies.

"We see a deal not as a transaction, but as a continuum," Jenk said. "The trick is to have the confidence and the discipline to step back and say, 'Am I getting carried away with things?'"

The study showed executives are becoming increasingly aware that most failed deals stem from errors during the merger due diligence phase, or the pre-merger review of a target company's historical and financial records, Jenk said. The traditional due diligence frequently ignores exactly what steps will need to be taken to successfully implement a merger after it's announced, Jenk noted.

In fact, the study showed 83 percent of the respondents were not able to distinguish between the different value levers—or strategic rationale—for doing a deal.

"People tend to be looking for hidden surprises and legal mine fields, as opposed to what they are going to do with the business and create value," Jenk said. "You can look at habitual, successful acquirers and they have a very good system. They have the confidence to do a deal, and the confidence to say, "No." *Reuters*

5,000 chase 200 jobs with Cathay

HONG KONG—Some 5,000 people have applied for 200 positions as flight attendants with the Hong Kong-based Cathay Pacific Airways, a spokesperson for the airline said Monday.

About 1,500 of them turned up on Sunday for a walk-in interview at a hotel in Hong Kong's international airport at Chek Lap Kok, said Cathay spokesperson Lisa Wong.

"Some 3,500 others have applied by post or e-mail," said Wong.

Last month, Cathay Pacific announced it would recruit 200 cabin crew this year and 800 more in 2003-2004 as it raises capacity and adds six new aircraft to its fleet, with air travel regaining the vigor it lost after the Sept. 11 terror attacks.

The overwhelming response to Cathay comes at time when Hong Kong's jobless rate has risen to a record 7.1 percent in the three months to April due to corporate downsizing and lay-offs.

The government has warned that the jobless rate would stay high in the near term. **AFP**

BIG WOODS
QUALITY AMERICAN TRUCKS
WWW.BIGWOODSTRUCKS.COM
522-8765/66 NEW ARRIVALS IH9670

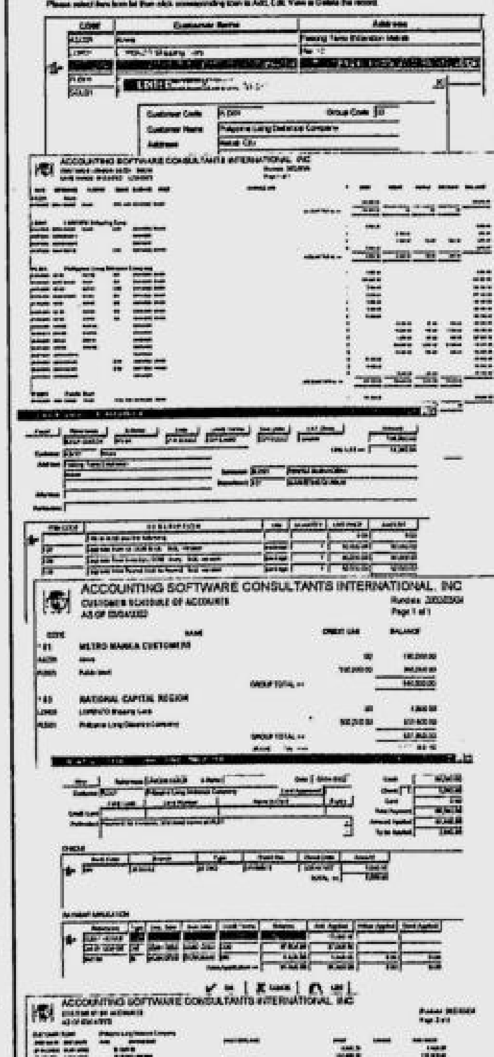
TO SEE IS TO BELIEVE, TO BE SAFE, AND NEVER TO BE SORRY
Concealed Camera In Smoke Detector
Ceiling Dome Camera
Diamond Smart Scan CCTV System
Time Lapse Recorder
Digital Multiplexer
HOWARD CONTROLS
Auto iris CCD Camera With interchangeable adjustable focus lens
Matrix/Telemetry Controls
A burglar trying to break in your house... A stalker disturbing your home and privacy... A slacker wasting your company's precious time... You can watch all these and more without being discovered and protect yourself and your loved ones with this very reliable and affordable security system!

ACCESSORIES:
• CAMERA HOUSING • FIX OR ZOOM LENSES • VIDEO SWITCHES • VIDEO AMPLIFIERS • PAN/TILT/SCANNER • DIGITAL PROCESSORS
ALSO AVAILABLE:
• ULTRAK High Tech CCTV Equipment • FBII Fire & Burglary Alarm System • MDI Access Control & Building Automation System • RETH Hotel Card Key, Card Access, Electronic Lock System, Automatic Gate System • PERIMETER Protection System • Metal Detection Equipment and other electronic security related products.
SERVICES:
• SYSTEM DESIGN & CONSULTANCY • INSTALLATION • AFTER SALES SERVICE & MAINTENANCE

yutiam HARDWARE CO., INC. electronic security division
936-938 T. Mapua St., Manila
Tels.: (632) 711-4959 to 61 Fax: (632) 711-4810

COMPETITION IS THE INCENTIVE TO BE BETTER...

Accounts Receivable System
SQL - Windows



General Features
- Dual tracking of Receivable as per Customer and Salesman; as to balances, ledger, statement of accounts, age analysis, movement of accounts, etc.
- Allows generation of Billing/Service Invoice.
- Tracking of Post-Dated checks collected.
- Allow customer's payment by cash, multiple check, credit cards and simultaneous application to several invoices.
- Simultaneous operation of Accounts Receivable System (LAN) in several PC terminals such as transaction data entry, generation of reports, master file build-up, inquiry, and other system activities.
- Access rights and security modules which limits access and generate audit trail of the users activities.
- Produce extensive reports on a real-time basis such as Aging Analysis, Account Movement, Collection Performance, Statement of Accounts, Ledger and Schedule of Receivable which are necessary in decision-making and are very useful for audit purposes.
- Reports are viewed on screen, which allow you to expand the window display to full screen size, range print and save to file or send to printer.
- All reports can be saved on most common file formats such as Excel, Lotus 123, html, Word, SQL, etc.
- Complete with dropdown tables to ease Accounts Receivable System operation.
- Complete with System Utilities such as: • Install/Setup, License Key, Control Date, Recovery, Change Code, Users, Credit Cards, Credit Terms, Upgrade Process.
- System-generated reference codes / numbers.
- Client-Server Application. This enable fast processing of data even in wide area networks.
- Requires SQL database server as back-end.

Reports Available
- Receivable Ledger
- Statement of Accounts
- Age Analysis - Summary
- Age Analysis - Detailed
- Movement Analysis of Accts - Summary
- Movement Analysis of Accts - Detailed
- Post-Dated Checks On Hand
- Registers for Invoices Collection and Adjustments
- Payment Performance Summary
- Payment Performance Detailed
- Receivable Schedule
- Tax Register - Summary
- Tax Register - Detailed

Windows Products Available
- Departmental General Ledger SQL Windows
- Payroll SQL System with 201 File
- Fixed Assets for SQL Windows
- ASCII - ERP I (An Integrated System of Inventory, Accounts Receivable & Accounts Payable Modules)

SYBASE Products also available...

ACCOUNTING SOFTWARE CONSULTANTS INT'L., INC.
Web Page Address:
http://www.asciisys.com

MAIN OFFICE :
Suite 809, Antel Global Corporate Center
Julia Vargas Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City
(632) 634-4785 / 634-4795 / 634-5449 / 635-7628 / 638-7026
(632) 635-7852
info@asciisys.com
Text: (0919) 571-5342

USA BRANCH:
27819 N. Springtree Place
Valencia, CA 91354
(661) 263-1641 / 263-1642
(661) 263-8615
info@asciisys.com

Your Partner in Professional Service

People, Events & Products

Aries Espinosa, Editor

aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Compostela Valley
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Nabunturan, Compostela Valley

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID

The Government of the Republic of the Philippines, through the Provincial Government of Compostela Valley invites interested CONTRACTORS to apply for prequalification and after being prequalified to bid for the following project:

A.) Name of Project: Construction of People's Cultural and Sports Arena Phase 1
B.) Scope of Work: Construction of Foundation, Columns and portion of Superstructure
C.) Required PCAB: Gen. Building Triple A-Medium B
D.) Estimated Project Cost: P24,343,036.73
E.) Source of Funds: Local Funds
F.) Submission of letter of intent: June 10-11, 2002
G.) Distribution of PRE C1 Forms: June 20-21, 2002

Available at PBAC Secretariat, Provincial Planning and Development Office (PPDO), Nabunturan, Compostela Valley Province.

H.) Deadline of submission of accomplished PRE-C 1 Forms at PBAC Secretariat: June 24-25, 2002
I.) Notification of Pre-qualified Contractor: July 2, 2002
J.) Credit Line Commitment: P2,434,303.67
K.) Distribution of Bid Documents: July 9, 2002

Plans, Bid Documents and List of Minimum Equipment requirement of the project are available for issuance to prospective bidders at the Planning and Programming Division, Provincial Engineer's Office, Nabunturan, Compostela Valley Province upon presentation of letter of intent and original copy of contractors' License, Certificate of Registration and Classification of Contractors (CRC-C) and certified photocopies of these documents for authentication and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Fifteen Thousand Pesos (P15,000.00)

L.) Schedule of Pre-Bid Conference at the Provincial Governor's Office, Cabidianan, Nabunturan, Compostela Valley Province will be on July 16, 2002 at 1:00 PM.

Sealed bids will be received by the PBAC until 1:15 o'clock in the afternoon on July 30, 2002 at the Provincial Governor's Office, Cabidianan, Nabunturan, Compostela Valley Province which will be publicly opened at 1:15 PM of the same date in accordance with the requirements of the bid documents.

The Provincial Government of Compostela Valley reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect (formality or technicality) in such bids and to accept bids as may be considered most advantageous to the government.

For more information, please contact Atty. Anesio M. Ranario, Provincial Administrator (Tel. No. [084] 822-0432, Cel. No. 0919-2730874).

(Sgd.) **JOSE R. CABALLERO**
Governor

(PDI–May 30, 31 & June 4, 2002)

Kumon education: a great start to move ahead

IN A FEW days time, it will be back to school once again for students and pupils everywhere, a time when we get to see proud parents eagerly accompany their kids to school, making sure they receive the best education that they deserve.

But while good schools do great works in the life of a child, parents still play a critical role in ensuring their path to success. Parents must see to it that their kids make steady progress in their mental abilities, increase their self-confidence and develop their potential to the fullest.

The Kumon method of learning clearly recognizes these concerns and it prides itself in advocating and fulfilling these ideals. Kumon aims for accuracy and mastery of the students' math and reading skills. Kumon uses math and reading as a means to develop the potential of every child by building their self-confidence. The popularity of the method has made Kumon a recognized leader and the largest after-school supplemental education program in the world.

Kumon will not be a burden to your kids even during school days. Students do a little work each day with Kumon. They will spend only 15 to 30 minutes daily to answer the worksheets at home, which is a good way of instilling in them good study habits and self-discipline. They will only report twice a week for approximately 30 minutes at the Kumon center. Parents also need not worry about being burdened with additional education expenses because Kumon has no tuition increase.

As a supplemental learning program, Kumon is completely in harmony with school. It does not conflict with or replace the regular school curriculum, but aims to help your child achieve excellence in school.

More importantly, Kumon is designed to be a long-term program of individual development. Your child should have a long-term commitment and dedication with Kumon in order to maximize the benefits of the method. As it is dedicated to help them excel in all areas and be successful in life, Kumon will surely give your children a lifetime of benefit.

As we prepare our children to return to school, we should remember that self-worth is the foundation of learning. Start him now on an enjoyable journey of learning and mastery at Kumon. With every accuracy and mastery of his lesson, with every amount of confidence he builds, he will be on his way to a brighter future.

For your child to avail himself of the maximum benefits of a Kumon education, enroll only in accredited and authorized Kumon Learning Centers. For inquiries, call 885-0226 to 29.

JAPANESE PHILANTHROPISTS

A large group of Japanese businessmen from different companies arrived in the Philippines on a mission of mercy and share some of their largesse with those less privileged. One of the institutions that benefited from the generosity of the Japanese mission was the Elsie Gaches Foundation in Parañaque, which received several wheelchairs for its physically disabled wards. Shown (standing, from left) are lawyer Virna Salvador, VP for general affairs, Masuda Phils Inc., Toch Sasaki, consultant for Komyo Phils. Logistics Services (Kopls), Minoru Moriwaki, president, Kopls, P/Supt. Col. Alfredo Orbeta Jr., OIIC and SPD, Fort Bonifacio, Katsuaki Torii, president of Yutaka Manufacturing Phils. Inc., and Masayoshi Masuda, president of Masuda Phils. Inc.

GE'S GOLD, PLATINUM AS SUPERBRAND

Representatives of some of the country's leading companies gathered for the SuperBrands 2002 Award Ceremony recently hosted by Reader's Digest at the Skytop of the Hotel Inter-Continental Manila. Present to receive a Platinum Award in the refrigerator category and a Gold Award in the washing machine category for General Electric are CYA Industries Corp. officers William Gerona, marketing assistant, Joey Manuel, national sales manager, and Norman Reynoso, marketing manager. They are joined by Reader's Digest's Margaret Chua, right, and Lilet Camara-Yan. Now on its fourth year, SuperBrands is an annual survey conducted by Reader's Digest that sheds light on the consuming preferences of a representative cross-section of Asian society from the Philippines, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Singapore, Taiwan and Thailand.

San Antonio celebrates Feast of the Sacred Heart

THE NATIONAL Shrine of the Sacred Heart (Jubilee Church) of San Antonio Village, Makati City, invites the faithful to the Feast of the Sacred Heart on June 7. While the Feast is observed in all parishes across the country, it is particularly special to the parishioners and devotees of the Shrine, it being the designated National Shrine for the Sacred Heart devotion in the Philippines.

In joyful anticipation of the Feast and as a fitting preparation for the 4th World Meeting of Families in January 2003, the Shrine has lined up a series of events which will revolve around this year's theme "The Sacred Heart, Center of Life and Love in the Family".

Activities include two daily Novena Masses ongoing until June 6, one at 12:15 noon for the devotees and office workers in the Makati Business District, and another at 6 p.m. for the parishioners. There will be particular sponsors from the various mandated organizations of the parish and other sectors of the community for each day of the Novena.

The Shrine has also invited three prominent and brilliant Jesuit theologians to talk on the Sacred Heart of Jesus on June 4, 5 and 6 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. It will be recalled that the devotion to the Sacred Heart was propagated by the Jesuits in the country during the early 18th century. Rev. Fr. Victor Salanga, SJ, will be the speaker on June 4 while Rev. Fr. Catalino Arevalo, SJ and Rev. Fr. Jojo Magadia, SJ, are scheduled on June 5 and 6, respectively.

The Most Reverend Bishop Soc Villegas DD will preside the Feast Day Mass on June 7 at 12:15 noon. The celebration will be capped by the Consecration of the Families and the Nation to the Sacred Heart which former President Cory Aquino will lead and a grand procession in Ayala Avenue at 2 p.m.

Other parish activities include a Mass baptism, Pro-health program, Feeding program, imposition of scapulars, home and institutional visitations of the Sacred Heart and Family Fun Day. For more details, call Stella Denoga at 812-6469 or the Parish Office at 895-6331.

COSMETIDERM NOW IN RP

The latest in hair removal is now in the Philippines. Now, there is a simpler, safer, and more effective way of removing excessive hair—Depilaser Treatment at Cosmetiderm Laser Surgicentre. This is today's most ideal choice because it offers both affordability and long-term results. Its unique LHE or dual light energy of Light and Heat Technology allows hair removal from almost any part of the body easily and painlessly. This light-based hair removal system targets only the hair follicles and destroys them for good, and it all takes just a few minutes.

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

DEPARTMENT OF CIRCULAR NO. 2002-05-002

REQUIRING DEALERS AND/OR OPERATORS OF GASOLINE STATIONS TO POST A WARNING SIGN AGAINST THE USE AND/OR OPERATION OF CELLULAR PHONES WHILE GASSING-UP IN GASOLINE STATIONS

WHEREAS, the Department of Energy (DOE) and the Department of Transportation and Communication (DOTC) recognize the possibility that battery-operated equipment represent a potential ignition source and should not be permitted on sites where there is a concentration of flammable vapors;

WHEREAS, despite the lack of documented evidences, both agencies recognize the possibility that the use and operation of cellular phones by consumers while filling up in gasoline stations pose a threat to the safety of the motorists, gasoline station personnel and to the establishments through the possibility of igniting gas fumes by even a small electric spark produced by the key pad or ringer;

WHEREAS, the said threat is acknowledged by many, particularly by cellular phone manufacturers themselves as manifested by the warnings carried by their products, by oil companies here and abroad as reflected in their information materials, and by local government units as reflected by issuance of city ordinances;

WHEREAS, areas with a potentially explosive atmosphere are often but not always clearly marked;

WHEREAS, in the interest of consumer safety, there is a need for both agencies to take necessary steps to avoid occurrence of accidents resulting from the use of cellular phones in gasoline stations;

NOW, THEREFORE, in view of the above premises, the following are hereby ordered:

1. Upon effectivity of this Circular, all dealers/operators of gasoline stations shall be required to post ample and prominent warning signs in each pump island within the station, against the use of cellular phones while filling up in gasoline stations or at any time within the forecourt. Attached as Annex A is the warning design for use in such station. Oil companies and dealers shall not be precluded from posting their own warning signs; provided that prior approval from the DOE is required.
2. Dealer and/or operators of gasoline stations who fail to post the recommended warning signs required herein or a suitable equivalent as determined by a DOE inspection team shall be subject to the following penalties:
   - **a. First Offense - warning**
   - **b. Second Offense - P2,000.00 fine**
   - **c. Third Offense - P5,000.00 fine**

This Department Circular shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in two (2) newspaper of general circulation. Full compliance with this Circular shall not be later than **July 30, 2002.**

Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila, May 30, 2002.

(Sgd.) **VINCENT S. PÉREZ, JR.**
Secretary

(PDI - June 4 2002)

Pilipinyahan Festival at DAP

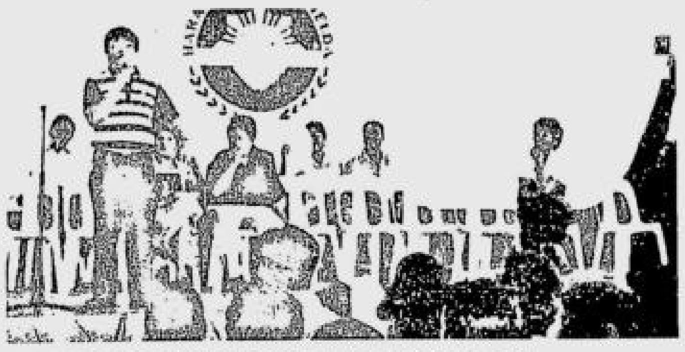
THE TAGAYTAY City government and the Tagaytay Tourism Council Inc. held the Pilipinyahan Festival May 1 to 7. The festival was first held during the country's centennial year, and was revived last year.

Three of the major activities in this weeklong event was held at the Development Academy of the Philippines (DAP) Conference Center, namely, the On-The-Spot Painting Contest on May 1, the Food Festival with cooking demos and a competition on May 3, and the Ms Character City Pageant on May 4.

Other activities of the Pilipinyahan Festival were trade fairs, cultural shows, a San Miguel Beer Concert, Paragliding/Kite Flying, Sportsfest, Musicola, and the Grand Pineapple Parade.

Sen. Noli de Castro, chair of the Senate Committee on Tourism, graced the occasion together with Undersecretary Oscar Palabyab of the Department of Tourism and Cavite Governor Ayong Maliksi.

Sponsors of the various activities were Jollibee Foods Corp., San Miguel Corp., Coca-Cola Bottlers Inc., and International Pharmaceutical Inc.



MALANGEN'S MASS WEDDING IN QC

4th District-Quezon City councilor Restituto 'Resty' B. Malangen conducts his second successful mass wedding project after the in-demand, continuing matrimonial project first kicked off November last year. Some 268 would-be couples benefited from the wedding ceremony staged January at the Barangay Doña Imelda covered court. With Malangen, seated from left are captain Alfonso Alindogan of Barangay Old Capitol Site, kagawads Miles Olaguer and Noel Estrella, both from Barangay Tatalon. Malangen also holds a regular Mass Baptism project for infant beneficiaries from the city's fourth district.

BITS Clips

Purging negativity seminar

IN LINE with its mission to give unique seminars that help develop the individual to his fullest potential, The Corporate Mind presents two life-changing mini-seminars—Having the Right Consciousness and Purging Negativity on June 5, 18 and 25 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. and Tapping the Resources Within on June 6, 19 and 26 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the Manila Galleria Suites on ADB Avenue, Pasig City. The back-to-back presentation will guide seminar participants in recognizing and eliminating ego aspects that block success, and, above all, harm the soul. These include worry, envy, jealousy, pride, irritation, anger, hatred, anxiety and all forms of reactive behavior. Speaker is Josephine Gomez, a professional speaker in seminars and conventions, corporate communications consultant. For seminar particulars and for corporate in-house purposes, call 687-7898 or e-mail corpmind@edsamall.com.ph.

May inflation seen flat at 3.7% on strong peso

THE COUNTRY'S annual inflation rate is expected to be flat in May, with economists predicting that the recent strength in the peso will keep the lid on price pressures.

A poll of 10 economists showed that the average expectation was for inflation to be at 3.67 percent for May, in line with the government's expectation of around 3.6 percent.

The data will be released Tuesday morning.

In April, inflation was at 3.6 percent, the same as March.

"It's just a modest pickup from the previous month and I don't really see it moving a lot higher. I think the appreciation of the peso will keep a lid on inflation pressures," said Graham Parry, an economist at Lehman Brothers in Tokyo.

The peso strengthened to the 49 to $1 level in early May, its highest in more than a year, in tandem with the strength in other regional currencies as the dollar weakened.

However, the currency has given up some of its gains since then, with the peso quoted at 50.385/415 to the dollar just before the midday break, against 50.25 close on Friday.

A stronger peso, while reducing export competitiveness, makes prices of imports, such as oil, cheaper.

Economic Planning Secretary Dante Canlas told reporters last week that May inflation would likely be 3.6 percent. He picked a 3.7-percent increase for June, as household spending was expected to rise with schools reopening after the summer break.

Canlas was speaking after the announcement of first quarter gross domestic product (GDP) data which came in 3.8 percent higher than a year ago, falling short of analysts' forecasts as a weak industrial sector offset rampant growth in mobile phone use.

While the central bank has said that it was through with lowering benchmark interest rates for now after its eight percentage points cut since December 2000, some economists felt Philippine monetary authorities could do more given the benign inflation outlook and weaker growth rates.

"I think there's still room to be lowering interest rates further, particularly given the weak GDP numbers," Parry said.

The overnight borrowing rate at which the central bank borrows from commercial banks is now at a decade low of 7 percent, and the lending rate is at 9.25 percent.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura said in an interview last week that overnight interest rates were likely to stay flat for the rest of this year, due to low price pressures and with the US Federal Reserve likely to keep rates steady.

Buenaventura said he expected inflation to average at 5 percent or lower in the next six months. The risks to this outlook would be the severity of the El Niño weather phenomenon likely to occur later this year and the movement of global oil prices, but the risks were not great, he said.

Reuters

Farm sector may not sustain 3-4% growth, says economist

By Christine A. Gaylican

THE GROWTH in agricultural production of 3 to 4 percent yearly may not be sustained for as long as the government will continue implementing policies that do not promote the efficiency of local farmers, Asia-Pacific Policy Center president Arsenio Balisacan said.

Balisacan, in an interview, said that the boom and bust cycle that the agriculture sector has been experiencing could not be reversed unless the government would give farmers more opportunities for diversification.

He said the subsidy given to local farmers by the National Food Authority was ineffective as it was proven to be too costly for the government and the consumers.

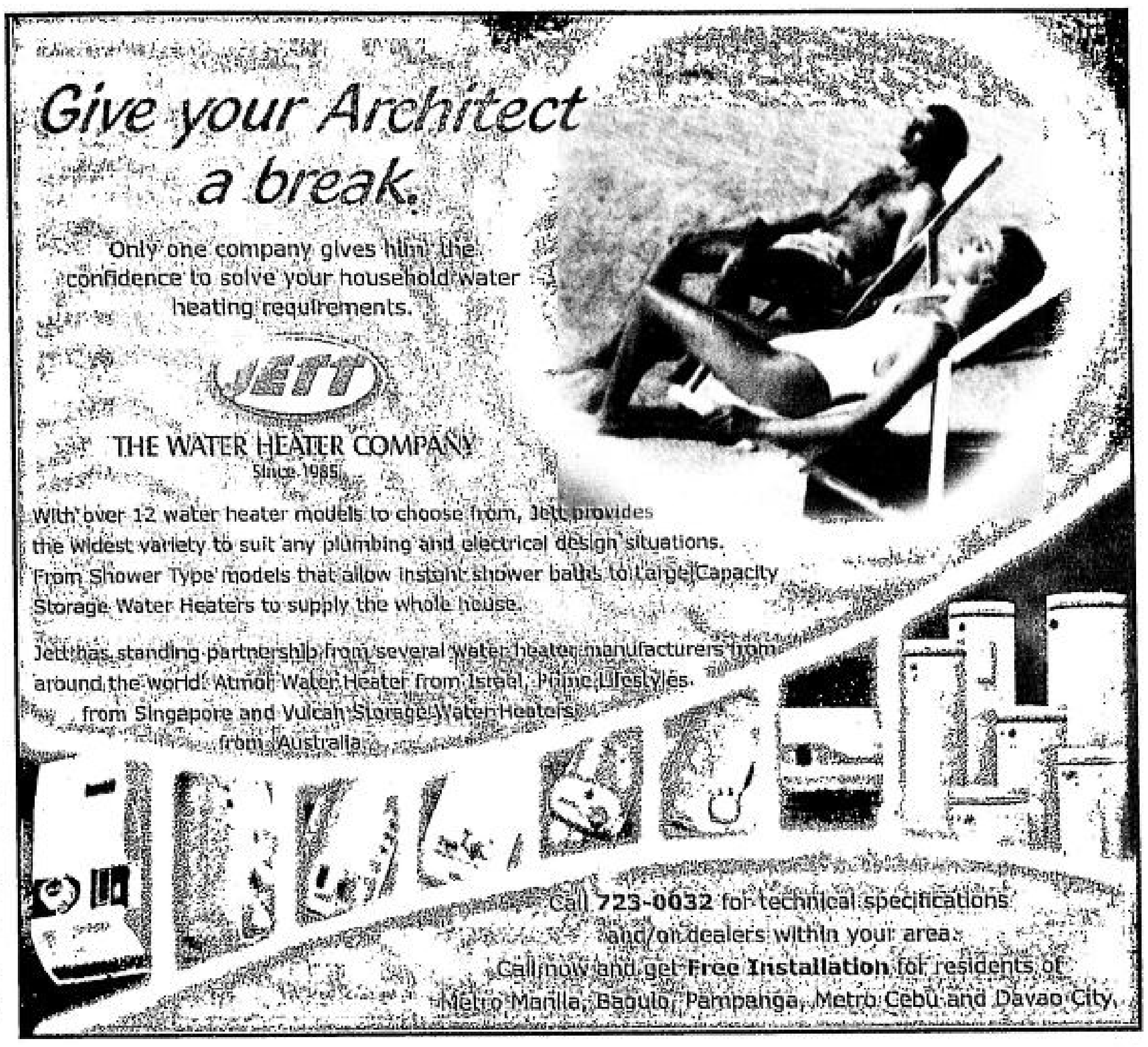
"The prices of local agricultural produce, especially palay, have not gone down. They even go up when prices in the international markets go up because we are still import dependent," said Balisacan.

The government, Balisacan said, has yet to make a clear-cut policy on the local application of modern biotechnology.

"It should make up its mind if we will adopt modern biotechnology so that safeguards can already be put in place," added Balisacan.

He noted that public expenditures for research and development were only at 0.3 percent of the country's total gross domestic product.

"Even the irrigation facilities are meant for rice and corn varieties, but how about the high-valued crops," he said.


Give your Architect a break.

Only one company gives him the confidence to solve your household water heating requirements.

JETT
THE WATER HEATER COMPANY
Since 1985

With over 12 water heater models to choose from, Jett provides the widest variety to suit any plumbing and electrical design situations. From Shower Type models that allow instant shower baths to Large Capacity Storage Water Heaters to supply the whole house.

Jett has standing partnership from several water heater manufacturers from around the world: Atmor Water Heater from Isreal, Prime Lifestyles from Singapore and Vulcan Storage Water Heaters from Australia.

Call 723-0032 for technical specifications and/or dealers within your area.
Call now and get **Free Installation** for residents of Metro Manila, Baguio, Pampanga, Metro Cebu and Davao City.

GSIS to sell ₱10B worth of loans, NPAs

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE GOVERNMENT Service Insurance System is planning to push through with the disposal of at least P10 billion in housing loans on its own despite National Home Mortgage Finance Corp.'s efforts to dispose off about P40 billion in mortgages from government financial institutions, including those of the GSIS.

In a briefing with reporters on the pension fund's 65th anniversary Friday, GSIS president Winston Garcia said he expected to know by July "what direction" a possible agreement on the sale of the GSIS's housing loans and non-performing assets to Cerberus would be taking.

Cerberus is already conducting due diligence on the state-controlled pension fund's housing loans as well as its other non-performing assets and bad loans worth P22 billion.

"Instead of NHMFC handling the asset company for us, we'd rather take the direct route and do it on our own," Garcia said.

NHMFC earlier this year tapped Ernst & Young to advise it on the sale of the housing loans portfolio worth P40 billion. Of the amount, the SSS and the GSIS accounted for P28 billion and P9 billion, respectively, while the Home Development Mutual Fund accounted for a few billions of pesos.

NHMFC needs to get the approval of the three GFIs before it can sell the mortgages.

The SSS earlier said it would not agree to sell its mortgages if they would be sold at a very steep discount. Prospective buyers had said they were willing to buy bad assets at 22 percent of its value.

Japan firm earmarks $37M for Subic plant expansion

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

JUKEN Sangyo, a leading wood processing firm from Japan, is investing an additional $37.3 million to expand its local operations less than a year after opening up its factory at the Subic Techno Park.

The planned investment is more than double the $18 million that Juken Sangyo pumped into the factory last year. The company has jacked up its work force by 70 percent to 250 employees since it opened last year to cope with higher than expected demand.

Juken Sangyo had recently entered into a long-term lease agreement for an additional four hectares at the Subic Techno Park.

Juken Sangyo imports cultured logs from its New Zealand subsidiary Juken Nissho Ltd. which it processes into plywood, laminated veneer lumber and other wooden products used for residential, commercial and industrial projects.

Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority Chair Felicito C. Payumo said Juken Sangyo and other Japanese firms were emboldened by the Japanese government's increasing commitment to finance major infrastructure projects in the freeport such as the Subic Port Development project and the Subic-Clark-Tarlac toll road project.

Japan's Obuchi Fund is bankrolling SBMA's port modernization program with a P6.8-billion loan package. The Subic-Clark Alliance for Development (Scad) has budgeted $400 million for the toll road project and it is asking the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) for funding.

Bill on Transco sale OKd

THE GOVERNMENT is set to auction off the state-owned electricity transmission system after the House of Representatives passed a bill clearing the way for the sale.

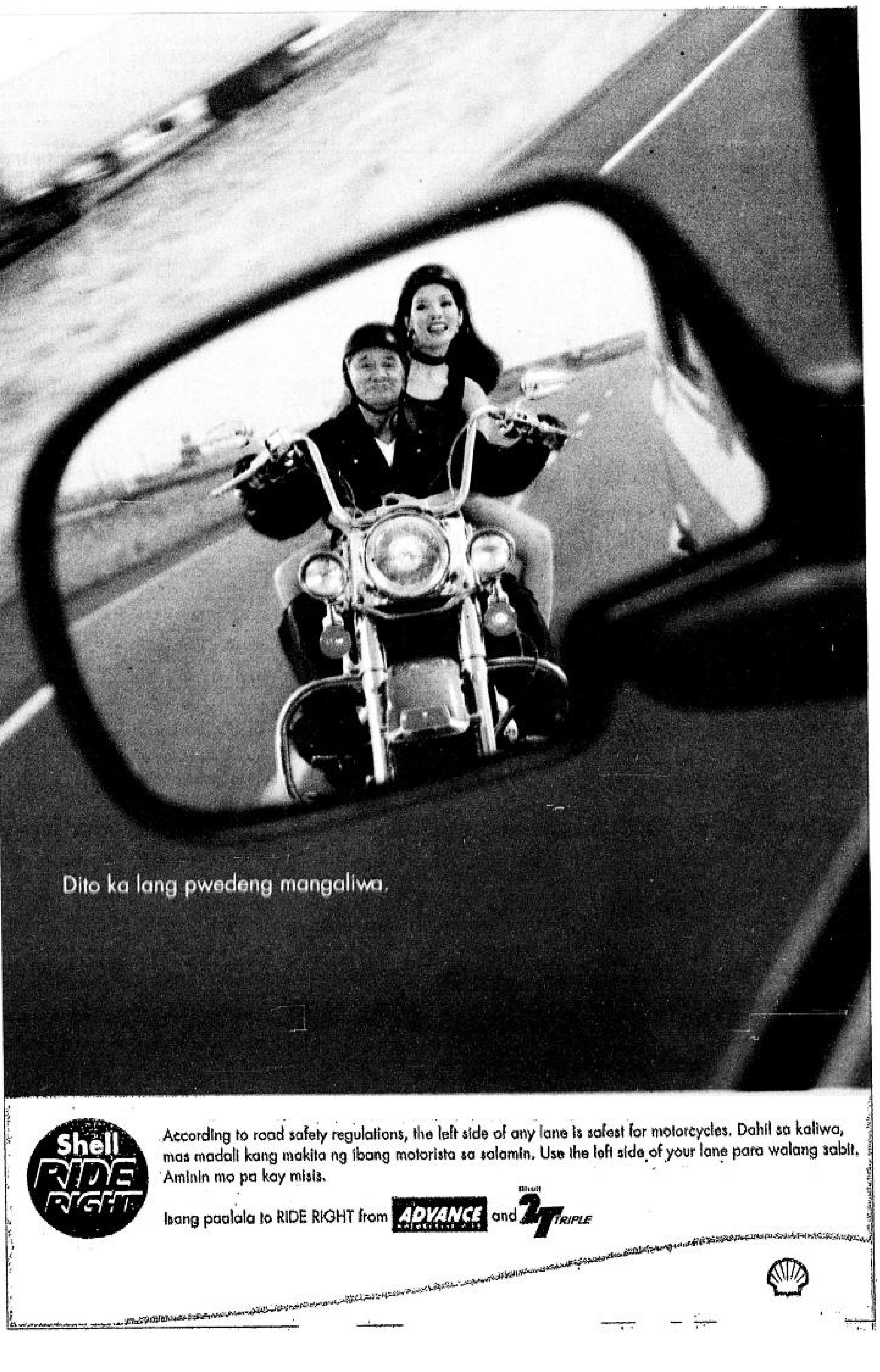
President Macapagal-Arroyo expects to raise up to $2 billion in the sale of the National Transmission Corp. (Transco), a Palace statement said.

The bill, set to be passed by the two chambers of Congress before adjourning on Thursday, gives the company a 50-year operating franchise, it added.

Under a law deregulating the power sector passed last year, Manila is to sell off the electricity generation and transmission assets of the state-run utility National Power Corp.

The landmark Electric Power Industry Reform Act also aims to draw more foreign investors into the power sector and spare the country from the prospect of lengthy daily power cuts such as those that crippled the economy almost a decade ago.

AFP


Dito ka lang pwedeng mangaliwa.

Shell RIDE RIGHT

According to road safety regulations, the left side of any lane is safest for motorcycles. Dahil sa kaliwa, mas madali kang makita ng ibang motorista sa salamin. Use the left side of your lane para walang sabit. Aminin mo pa kay misis.

Isang paalala to RIDE RIGHT from ADVANCE and Shell 2T TRIPLE

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING DIVISION
Main Office: PASONG TAMO, MAKATI CITY
☎ 8972535 (Direct) ☎ 8978000 (Trunk) Fax 8974008
G/F ATRIUM BLDG., MAKATI AVENUE, MAKATI CITY
☎ 8114361 ☎ 8114370 ☎ 8114012 Fax 8925578
ST. ANTHONY'S BLDG., AURORA BLVD., QUEZON CITY
☎ 912-9008-11 Fax 912-9011
SM MEGAMALL, MANDALUYONG CITY
☎ 6350219 ☎ 6872354 ☎ 6872366 Fax 6350220
G/F TRINITY BLDG., 636 T.M. KALAW ST., ERMITA, MANILA
☎ 5273342 ☎ 5280183 ☎ 5276357 Fax 5280213
ALABANG, MUNTINLUPA CITY
☎ 8424503 ☎ 8506465 Fax 8506465
e-mail address: main_classifieds@inquirer.com.ph

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

TUESDAY, JUNE 4, 2002

NATIONAL CLASSIFIEDS

The Widest Reaching Classifieds

RATES
P230 per column centimeter
P65 per line
(All prices exclusive of E-VAT)

DEADLINES
for reservations / cancellations / corrections
Mondays to Saturdays 12:00 noon Day before publication
Sundays 12:00 noon every Thursday

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

MEDICAL

PHYSICIAN/SURGEON

MKT STDPROSTATE CENTER SKIN WARTS IMPOTENCE RM 4G 2178 P. Tamo 8175071

RAPID'Tx VD-STD SCARS Ex SWEAT ALLERGIES 15 Annapolis, Greenhills Call 7276124 to 25 9am-7pm

PERSONAL

MASSAGE

'02 Hot Stuff Tel. No. 3233209

• 889-0170 • MALE AUTHORITY

BODY SPLASH MEN'S TOUCH 844-3896

•ADAMS-X (M) 8325220•

AKHIN THAI MASSAGE#0917 4116004 Mla & Cebu srvcs

BLUE PALM M: Massuer • 713-6553

Glen9264604-09198457226

JAMES MALE 24HRS SERVICE 8511883 ; 0916-4404374

MALE 18 PALANAN 7320659

MASSAGE 4727243 JOHN

MY BOY •5527957•

UNWIND 752-0437

VIP-M/F-24H-SVC 8312373 Romy

REFLEXOLOGY

Edward 7289285 09183257044

FEELS GOOD REFLEX CNTR 4127758/4134027

MALE SPA 562 BANAUE 7411426

Wizard Massage 4213197

MISCELLANEOUS

Free Basic Photography Workshop Frm June 10-15 Courses on SLR & 120MM, Basic Media Photography & Portraiture Call 411-4191

HOUSEHOLD

HOUSEHOLD JOBS

Best Maids 4111593/7111602

BEST MAIDS 8533504•8533505

Direct Maid Yaya Int'l Cook 7572089

Good Maids Yaya 9287096

Good-Maid-Yaya-Boy 870-9384

Help Agency 532-1947 • 532-8376

MAIDS•2594067•9268084

NURSE•Midwife•Oldsitter•Yaya 8720265•8735062•8712372

Prov'l MAID YAYA COOK LABA BOY DRIVER 872-2792•873-5271

RELIABLE HONEST MAIDS W/ NBI 4213253

ANGEL'S HANDS MAIDS W/NBI&BI 883-4270

RELIABLE MAIDS 8330946/47

TRUSTED QUALITY MAIDS W/NBI & BI 4213828

Yaya Boy Intl Cook Driver 7572089

Yaya Maid Cook Laba 9133924

LIPAT BAHAY

400Lipat 6817623/6817136

L-BAHAY 9206784 4540620

•CHEAP LBAHAY 9260424•

CLOSED ALUM VAN 8212970

LBAHAY 7113540

L-BAHAY 712-16-92

Lipat Bahay Mla 2 Any Pl. of Luzon 801-0759/805-4913

LIPAT BAHAY w/6 helpers 24 hrs. svc 7128861 / 7315750

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

CONDO/TWNHSE/APT

MAKATI

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

CONDO/TWNHSE/APT

MAKATI

VALENCIA TOWER
TOWNHOUSES
Sampaloc Street, San Antonio Village, Makati City
The Pleasures of Three-Storey Luxury Living...
3- Storey Townhouse • 1 Master Bedroom, 2 bedrooms • 3 Toilet & Bathrooms
BANK APPROVED
FOR SALE
Lot Area: 65.81 sq.m; P 5.5M - P 6.5M
Floor Area: 185.55 sq.m.
Real Estate License No. 6701 (H)
GREEN CASTLE REALTY INVESTMENTS
Call: (045) 963-0060 / (045) 963-0058 - Telefax

COMM'L/RESD'L

PASIG

418sqm Front College nr Church 6414589

04.383T sqm Pasig 10 mins. to Ortigas T-6414609

HOUSE & LOT

MAKATI

DASMA LA-620 NICE 5355126

Dasmarinas Vill. LA620 FA480 3BR Den • 535-5126

MAGALLANES LA-397 2STY 3BR DEN 12M ONLY 5355126

PALM VILLAGE FA200 3BR 2TB 6.5M Only 535-5126

MANILA

NEAR ST. SCHO BNewTwnhse4stry/3br/3tb/grge P3M up 8903461 loc 34

MARIKINA

Grnind bnew 3br 2M 9487112

PARANAQUE

H&L/Lots Sale/Rent 8230255

QUEZON CITY

3.7Hectares Antipolo Poultry Direct Buyers • 929-8376

L258 Rolling Hill New Mla. 2Sty 4BR 2Car • 929-8376

L800m² Mindanao Ave. QC Comml Lot w/Hse • 929-8376

LA1000m² New Mla QC Old Hse 929-8376 0919-4024987

LA471 Congressional Ave. Comm'l Lot QC • 929-8376

LA480 Mayon St. QC Comml Neg SMH • 929-8376

OTHER AREAS

LAGUNA BEL AIR 3 30 mins from Makati, Grab corner lots 0917-9114250 Luis

RUSH!CanyonWoods Bingas 5.5M 09186052638

LOT

QUEZON CITY

★ FERNDALE QC ★
Ayala Res Lots New Phase 204-290m² @ P9 500-P12.160 Pay 20-30% Bal 5yrs Mo. Int. HSES & LOTS - 3BR 3TB 150-300FA 200-300LA @ P6M P13M 2yrs-10yrs w/ AyalaA1 Facilities
★ Ayala Grnfields ★
Calamba Mt Makiling 360° view 400-1800m² lots@ 8T/m² & up 30% down Bal. 5-7 yrs. Inst. w/ Facilities See to Appreciate 9319117 ★ 9310160 Banez

LOT

QUEZON CITY

L800m² Del Monte Ave VLot Corner Lot • 929-8376

PROVINCIAL

4.5 Hectares Farm Lot Davao City • 929-8376

CONDO/TWNHSE/APT

MAKATI

GREEN CASTLE REALTY INV MAKATI / TOWNHOUSES Sampaloc St. San Antonio Vill Flr. Area 185.55 sqm 3BR / 3TB / 1 Garage P5 5M (045)963-0060 / 963-0058

ZOBEL ROXAS MKT BNewtwnhse/4sty/3BR/3TB/grge P3M up 8903461 loc 34

PASIG

5 Yrs 2 Pay 0 Int + Big Discount 671-2049 / 9051

Phoenix Hts Condo 2-3BR 4.6M-5M 412-1825 0917-7914365

QUEZON CITY

1.8M Nr ABS-CBN 10% D.P. payable in 6 mos Balance 10 or 15 years to pay Call 926-4070 ; 924-1402

HAPPY VIBES! QC townhse-Loyola Hghts 2BR 2.2M Rush Sale MISSY 9115745

4 Rent / Sale FF 2BR Burgundy Plaza Katipunan 0917-5382483

CUBAO Condo 1.4M 9132224

SCH PROMO OFF COML RESL 10% DP 0% ATENEO UP ST LUKES JACUZI SAUNA SPOOL 4331073 4210734 AGENT OK

MEMORIAL LOT

Heritage Memorial Park Lawn Garden Estate 929-8376

RESORT

Resthse Btangas 3br w/S.P. 8723sqm P9M Neg. 776-4317

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

APARTMENT

MANILA

3BR 2TB w/grge 8902148

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

APARTMENT

MARIKINA

nr Ateneo 1BRTB grge Montevista P7T 681-9583

HOUSE

QUEZON CITY

ST. IGNATIUS, 4th St. 25T 3BR 3TB 2multipurpose room grge 9117207 09178303756

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

2BR/8131542/09194108839

•• Condo 4 Rent Makati •• Res'l/Office 757-3123

PROMAX PLACE COM'L/RESD'L CONDO 4 RENT NR BUENDIA • 5 min 2 Makati brand new 1672 Dian St Mkt. Call Rose 8439418/6360509

MANILA

2BRTB ANTEL ROXAS BLVD. 0916-3543342/895-5340

PARANAQUE

37m² 13Tmo Rnt2own 0917-5357060

PASIG

★AIC Ort 3BR 35K 723-2391

QUEZON CITY

CUBAO FUR 8T AIRCON 91-8TH AVE CUBAO. STUDIO TYPE 9132527/0121163

RIZAL

INDAY SUBD ANTIPOLO 2 STRY 2TL 2BR AIRCON FUR 13T EACH 9132527/9121163

SAN JUAN

★Greenhills Cortijos 3BR w/3 Aircons View 25K • 723-2391

★SJuan Twnhse Lt. Bagulo 3BR FA300 FF 50K 723-2391

FOR LEASE

Pasig=960@80T/mo =840@70/m²/mo w/hse Cora 842-7246, 0917-4378409

ROOM & BOARD

New Ladies Dorm Nr UST Class"A" 6910992/09202321454

BEDSPACE

nr DLSU w/food P6.5T 8992148

LOAN & MORTGAGE

2% w/o TAKING CAR 3677523/24

BUSINESS RENTAL

MKTI ofc/clinic 8439418 Rose

Nr BUENDIA along PTAMO 38/85/62/185m² 1st class Bldg. 8903461 loc 34 or 19 ofc hrs

Taipan 127m² @300 4121625

WHOLE 4TH FLR 396 SQM UMC BLDG 900 UN AVE NR TAFT LRT 5211114

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

BMW

95 BMW 525i White Ltd Tel#823-0981

HYUNDAI

99 Strx AT P480T 0917-0166364

IsalonaP350 NGrace 9330002

'79 TwnAce 60T 09175403845

MERCEDES

300SD Turbo Dsl 350T 6376790

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

MITSUBISHI

'92 Lancer GTI T-2513014; 2529065;CP09170369873

TOYOTA

'93 Toyota XL 2513014; 2529065CP09179369873

OTHER CAR BRANDS

'96 Dodge Ram Diesel T-2513014; 2529065 CP09170369873

GRAND SALE!! ASSORTED VEHICLES VANS / CARS / 4X4 / PICK-UP FIRST COME! FIRST SERVE! LOWEST DP/FINANCING Call us @0645-7888 / 045-2386 Text messages 0918-0006000

Prado Trooper Pajero Mu Safari Terrano Surf Hi-Town Ace Delica Suzuki A1 lx pd 9132224 / 4381161

BUSES/TRUCKS

BUS & MINI BUS TEL.# 932-5160 / 932-9259

CANTER ELF A1 4381480

HEAVY EQUIPMENT/ TRANSPORT

Executive Aircraft Beechcraft Baron B55 Fax (02)850-9018 For information

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CARS FOR RENT

L3•Cars• 9273453 4538295

ABC-CARS & VANS Starex, Urvan, REVO, L300, HiAce, MB100, Altis, Honda, Cefiro, Lancer, Corolla, Lynx, Corona, Exalta, Mazda, Sentra Open 24 hrs 536-8822/303-9789

AC / NON-AC BUS 932-5160

BNEW VAN 8254058 8261045

BRDAL MB VANS 9296250

CAR VANS 410-0495

FCU Car Rental Daily Weekly Monthly Toyota Honda Mit Van Tel 722-8434 / 722-8438

HI ACE VANS 8252988

IT/HIACE 9136710/4333662

JB CARS Promo Rates #536-2048 526-6288/808-1632

L300 T7411356

L300/Vans 578-8917 (Roger)

MARIAN CARS BRIDAL VANS CSTER 8957247/8969956

Toyco Self Drive Carvan Coaster Rental •800-6595•

WANTED TO BUY

BUYING USED CARS 8990215

CAR LOAN

1.5% FAST CAR LOAN 3677523/24

2% w/o Taking Car 7228942/43

2% w/o Taking Car 8966633

2% w/o taking car 7262780

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Car 3646928

2% w/oTaking Car 3732083

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

BAKERY EQUIPMENT

B. Equipment 0916-3597367

FURNITURE

P30T UP Kawai etc. P65T YAMAHA Term/Cash 9240834

Rustan's

urgently needs...

RETAIL MANAGER

☑ Male, at least 25 years old
☑ Graduate of a (4) four-year degree course
☑ Preferably with work experience in boutique operations
☑ With strong leadership and excellent communication skills
☑ Highly presentable, results-oriented, proficient in computers
☑ Willing to work on weekends and holidays

HUMAN RESOURCE SPECIALISTS

☑ Female, at least 26 years old
☑ Graduate of Business Management or any Social Science course, preferably with inclinations in business
☑ Minimum of one (1) year experience in human resources focusing on career development, training or compensation and benefits
☑ With strong leadership qualities, high initiative and organizational skills
☑ Must have the potential to work in all areas of HR with minimum supervision
☑ Must be people-oriented, mature, analytical and highly motivated
☑ Must be able to adapt to a fast working environment
☑ Proficient in English communication and computer programs

DIRECT MAIL/AD & PROMO COORDINATOR

☑ Male or female, between 22-25 years old
☑ Graduate of any (4) four-year business course
☑ With one or two years marketing experience
☑ With good background in computer programming

MAKE-UP ARTISTS

☑ Male, female, between 21-30 years old
☑ Graduate of any (4) four-year Business course
☑ At least 5'2" in height with pleasing personality and clear complexion
☑ Preferably with skin care experience/Cosmetology background
☑ Good in oral communication skills

BEAUTY THERAPISTS

☑ Female, between 21-28 years old
☑ 5'2" and above in height
☑ With pleasing personality and clear complexion
☑ Graduate of Nursing or Physical Therapy
☑ With good communication skills
☑ Preferably near Alabang area

Interested applicants may apply personally to:

RUSTAN'S HEAD OFFICE
G/F Rustan Building, EDSA, Mandaluyong City
Tel. Nos. 727-0226 loc. 2210/2208 look for Lanie/Anna/Beth
Applicants may be accommodated from Monday to Thursday between 8-12 nn

---

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

HOME APPLIANCE

Ice Shaver Crusher Hamburger Gridle Griller Food Warmer Low High Presure Siopao Steamer Freezer Fryer Hood etc. T-9981170

PETS

DOG TRAINER 4526681

PHIL. DOG SCHOOL LICENSED BY THE GOVT. 721-3736 / 0917-8483181

WANTED TO BUY

ANY ROLEX Buy / Sell / Pawn / Repair Tel# 804-0484 • 834-2866

B/SELL FULY PD EDUC PLAN Gie 7137284 09177939632

BUYING ROLEX others, High Price CASH 09178142309/7269687/4123543

DEFECTIVE TV/COMPO 7325865

Buy/Pawn Diamonds T834-2886

WE BUY AT HIGH PRICE ROLEX 5633742 5646593 09178473744

WE BUY GOLD HIGHEST PRICE CALL: 8390004 8390060

MISCELLANEOUS

B/SELL EDUC'L PLAN 8061674

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE

First Class PASTRIES Maker (Male) Urgent 843-2596

MALE/FEMALE

*Ofc Staff 18-45y/o w/wo/exp Start asap 9134470 Teresa

*Ofc Staff 18-45y/o w/wo/exp Start asap 9134470 Ella

GIA
THAILAND CAMPUS

Gemological Institute of America
Learn about Gems and Jewelry
From the world's foremost authority in gemology
70 year history of excellence in education
over 300,000 students worldwide
GIA Graduate Gemologist Diploma
the most recognized gemological credential
Thailand is a world center for gems and jewelry
For professional training at the source
GIA Thailand Campus
Tel: (662) 237-9575 to 77
giathai@ksc15.th.com
Fax: (662) 236-9829
www.giathailand.com

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE/FEMALE

CARE GIVER T5280722

HRD Staff 09197672274 Mike

Sales Rep: Sal+Allwnc+Comm U-731 Megaplaza ADB Ave , Ort, Pasig

PUBLIC NOTICES

AUCTION SALE

FILIPINAS PAWNSHOP, INC. 1137 P. Gil St. Paco, Mla. Will sell all expired pledges left during the months of October and November 2001 on JUNE 16, 2002, Sunday at 10:00 a.m.
Sons of J. Lanuza-Auctioneer.

MARA PAWNSHOP BR. of 2410-18 P. Gil St. Sta. Ana Manila Auction Sale on June 11, 2002, Tuesday at 2:30 in the afternoon, respectively. Jan. 11-Feb. 11, 2002
Sons of J. Lanuza, Auctioneer

MARA PAWNSHOP
I, II, III, IV and Comembo Br. of Makati City.
AUCTION SALE on June 11, 2002, Tues.. at 10:30, 11:30, 1:30, 12:30 and 8:30 in the morning and on the afternoon, respectively Jan. 11-Feb 11, 2002
Sons of J. Lanuza, Auctioneer

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the management of **Hi-Tech Business Associates Pte. Ltd.** has resolved to close its operations in the Philippines effective **March 1, 2002.**

This notice is in compliance with the requirements of SEC.

Janssen Dimalanta
Resident Agent

(PDI - May 28, June 4 & 11, 2002)

PUBLIC NOTICES

AUCTION SALE

MI MARA PAWNSHOP of 251 Quirino Ave., Baclaran Paranaque, M.M. Auction Sale on June 11, 2002, Tuesday at 4:00 in the afternoon. Respectively. Jan. 11-Feb. 11, 2002.
Sons of J. Lanuza, Auctioneer.

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Adultwear consign 3738021

Earn From Home w/ Travel 817-0524 • 0917-9200176

Earn From Home w/ Travel 295-2107 • 0917-8136600

I MAKE P500,000.00/mo Needs People To Train • Tel.# 536-8322 •

JUICE DRINK MAKING BUSS. TRAINING, RAW MAT'LS. AVAIL. 2554543 2554544 2553564

Travel & Earn From Home 02-6870963 / 0917-5319792

PUBLIC NOTICES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

TSHIRT SALE 0919-9075742

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late JOAQUIN VITOR was extrajudicially settled by their heirs per Doc# 472 Book#10 Page#96 Series of 1987 Notary Public Reynaldo Bernardo of Rizal PDI 5-21,28 6-4, 2002

Notice is hereby given that the heirs of **MARCY B. GOLDSTEIN** executed an extrajudicial settlement of estate with waiver of rights for condominium units covered with CCT Nos. 3149 and C-3148 on May 30, 2002 Per Doc.114; Page 24; Book 1 Series of 2002 of Atty. **MARIE JOY T. ABANGAN**
(PDI-June 4, 11 & 18, 2002)

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING DIVISION
Main Office: PASONG TAMO, MAKATI CITY
☎ 8972535 (Direct) ☎ 8978808 (Trunk) Fax 8974808
G/F ATRIUM BLDG., MAKATI AVENUE, MAKATI CITY
☎ 8114361 ☎ 8114370 ☎ 8114012 Fax 8925578
ST. ANTHONY'S BLDG., AURORA BLVD., QUEZON CITY
☎ 912-9008-11 Fax 912-9011
SM MEGAMALL, MANDALUYONG CITY
☎ 6350219 ☎ 6872354 ☎ 6872366 Fax 6350220
G/F TRINITY BLDG., 636 T.M. KALAW ST., ERMITA, MANILA
☎ 5273342 ☎ 5280183 ☎ 5276357 Fax 5280213
ALABANG, MUNTINLUPA CITY
☎ 8424503 ☎ 8506465 Fax 8506465
e-mail address: main_classifieds@inquirer.com.ph

OBITUARIES

YORK (U.S.A.) CASKETS
... because they deserve only the best.
*For more information, please call your funeral director

Zion Oro Jose O. Zuñiga Jr.

January 26, 1954 - June 3, 2002

Survived by his loving wife **Ana Melendres-Zuñiga**; children **Iñaki** and **Hannah**; mother **Catalina**; brothers **Zorobabel, Zeno, Zoe** and **Zebedee**; sisters **Zinnia, Zenith, Zita** and **Zoraya**.

His remains lie in state at Greenhills Christian Fellowship, South Metro, Alabang-Zapote Road, Muntinlupa City.

Cremation will be on Friday, June 7, 2002.

"The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away;
may the name of the Lord be praised" (Job 1:21)

The Missionary Sisters
Servants of the Holy Spirit
Announce the death of

SISTER CORAZON, S.Sp.S. (TRINIDAD AGALOOS)

on June 2, 2002 at the age of 94
at the Convent of the Holy Spirit, Quezon City.

Mass of the Resurrection will be offered
on Wednesday, June 5, 2002 at 3:00 p.m.

At the Convent of the Holy Spirit
8 Poinsettia Road, Quezon City.

Interment will follow at the Christ the King Cemetery,
E. Rodriguez Avenue, Quezon City.

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS

❶ Copy of Death Certificate ❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS and bank-to-bank payments

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT • MESSAGE OF THANKS
DEATH ANNIVERSARY • REQUIEMS • FREE OBIT DESIGN

We accept Classified advertisements
Lines, Recruitment, Obituaries, Bidding

in Visayas

Diri na ta sa INQUIRER *bay! Sayon na sulit pa!*

Bacolod City
Ms. Elizabeth Verdeflor
Bubbles N' Swirls
Terra Building, La Salle Avenue
Bacolod City
Telefax No. (034) 433-3628
Cell. No. (0917) 985-2691
Cebu
Cebu Daily News
18-15 Escano Street, Cebu City
Tel. No. (032) 232-7618
Dumaguete City
Mr. Raymund Mercado
Hi-Top News Magazine &
General Merchandise
Dr. V. Locsin Street, Dumaguete City
Tel. Nos. (035) 225-5796/225-4364
Mr. Ramon Charles Sy
New Renie's
Dr. V. Locsin Street, Dumaguete City
Tel. Nos. (035) 225-4326/422-7452
Fax No. (035) 255-1182
Iloilo
Mr. Eduardo Ty
c/o Ms. Marilou Ty
Eddie-Mar News & Magazine Center
Ground Floor, Bombo Radio Building
Mapa Street, Iloilo City
Tel. No. (033) 337-3120/337-6018
Mr. Jim Feliciano
309 Ledesma Street, Iloilo City
Tel. No. (033) 338-9932
Cell. No. (0917) 401-9180
Kalibo
Dra. Besse Candelario
Candelario Enterprise
RB Newspapers, Magazine &
Song Hits Distribution Agency
Pastrana Street, Kalibo, Aklan
Tel. Nos. (036) 262-4155/268-5200
Roxas City
Ms. Marieta Santos
M. Santos Komiks Magazines &
Newspaper Dealer
Door C, MB Building
Fuentes Drive, Roxas City
Tel. Nos. (036) 621-5586/522-6925
Tacloban City
Mr. Nell Montejo
Montejo's Newspaper Supply
246 Avenida Veteranos
Tacloban City
Tel. Nos. (053) 325-6743/321-2954
Tagbilaran City
Mr. Ferdinand Mercado
Doña Rosario Village
G. Penaflor Street
Tagbilaran City
Tel. No. (038) 411-5007

NATIONAL CLASSIFIEDS

The PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER enjoys the biggest circulation and readership among all the major broadsheets in the country. It has a dominant market share of over 55% according to the 2000 Asia Research Organization (ARO) Tri-Media Study.

“*I have competed well; I have finished the race; I have kept the faith.*”
2 Timothy 4:7

Col. Zoilo Manuel Estrella (Ret.)

Has gone to his eternal rest in the peace of our Lord on May 31, 2002 at the age of 86.

His beloved wife **Choleng Sanvictores**,
children
Rolly and **Vida Tordesillas**
Sylvia and **Dodie Cañiza**
Rod and **Marie Lacson**
Telly and **Rico Agcaoili**
Rey and **Roni Jacinto**
Nephew and friend, **Willie** and **Myrna Sanchez**
Grandchildren and great grandchildren,
Sisters: **Lualhati Hilario** and **Remy** and **Tom Estrera**
Nephews and nieces, other relatives and friends
request prayers for his everlasting joy in the company of the angels and the saints.

His body lies in state at Mount Carmel Church,
Doña Juana Rodriguez Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on June 5, 2002 at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina
after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at Mount Carmel Church.

For your Classified Ads requirements, call our Classifieds Advertising Hotlines:

HEAD OFFICE
897-8808
loc. 514, 516
899-4425
897-2535
897-8425
(Telefax)
CUBAO
912-9008 to 11
(Aurora)
MAKATI
892-5578
811-4361
811-4370
KALAW
528-0213
527-3342
MEGAMALL
635-0219
635-0220

We Lovingly Remember
the Third Death Anniversary of

JOSEFA BLANCO MANGAHAS

who joined her Creator on June 4, 1999

Immaculate Concepcion Cathedral, Cotabato City	5:30 AM
Holy Cross Rosary Church, Cotabato City	6:00 AM
Our Lady of Manaoag Church, Manaoag, Pangasinan	9:00 AM
Sta. Perpetua Parish, 280 D. Tuazon Street, Quezon City	6:00 AM
Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Kanlaon corner Retiro, Quezon City	7:30 AM
Parish of the Heart of Jesus & Mary, West Triangle, Quezon City	6:00 PM
St. Thomas the Apostle Church, Tucson, Arizona, U.S.A.	8:00 AM
St. Odillia's Church, Tucson, Arizona, U.S.A.	9:00 AM
St. Rita Parish, River Ridge, Louisiana, U.S.A.	7:30 AM
Our Lady of Pillar, Ladue Missouri, U.S.A.	7:30 AM
Chinese General Hospital Chapel	12:15 PM
Sacred Heart Parish Church, Kamuning, Quezon City	7:00 AM

Her loving husband **Dr. Cayetano P. Mangahas**; children **Greg & Jeannene, Edmund & Susan, Francis**; grandchildren **Tommy, Alex & Angelica**; brothers & sisters.

We accept Classified advertisements
Lines, Recruitment, Obituaries, Bidding

in Mindanao

Ake ya tu na INQUIRER. *Sirca ya, sulit pa!*

Butuan City
Mr. Rolando Buss
R.C. Buss Trading
490 G. Flores Avenue
Butuan City
Tel Nos (085) 225-3247
(085) 225-3169/341-5082
Cagayan de Oro City
OMNI General Merchandise
Dr. 1 De Leon Building
Pabayo-Pacana Streets
Cagayan de Oro City
Tel Nos (08822) 722-530
(088) 856-5253
Grandstar News & Magazines
122 Cruz Taal corner Pabayo Street
Cagayan de Oro City
Tel Nos (088) 857-2571/857-1612
Telefax No (088) 231-3248
E-mail grandstar@hotmail.com
Cotabato
Marquez News & Magazine Agency
Marquez Building, 51 Sinsuat Avenue
Cotabato City
Tel Nos (064) 421-3264/421-8611/
(064) 229-7089 (Lollot - Secretary)
Davao City
Dabaw Periodicals, Inc.
Santos Building, Gov Duterte Street
Davao City (fronting Galleria Hotel)
Tel Nos (082) 226-4406/221-3379/
221-3424/226-2931
Babasahin ATBP.
Lower Level, Gaisano Mall
Bajada, Davao City
Ground Floor, Victoria Plaza
Bajada, Davao City
Tel Nos (082) 221-3927/227-4410/300-2920
General Santos
Mr. Ramon Dimalanta
GSC Newscenter, Dimalanta Building
35 Pioneer Avenue, General Santos City
Tel Nos (083) 301-8731/301-6244
Pagadian City
Mr. Eduardo Villar Clavero
Edmar News - Advertising Agency
Bonifacio Street, Pagadian City
Tel. Nos (062) 215-1448/214-2641
Cell No (0919) 660-0001
Zamboanga
Mr. James Hao
Marlen's Variety Store
85-88 Sevilla Street, Zamboanga City
Tel Nos (062) 991-4294/991-0973
Mr. Ruben Bautista
c/o Norie Bautista
Christian Vincent Newsstand
P Briantes Street corner Campaner Street
Zamboanga City
Tel. Nos. (062) 991-2065/990-4016

NATIONAL CLASSIFIEDS

The PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER enjoys the biggest circulation and readership among all the major broadsheets in the country. It has a dominant market share of over 55% according to the 2000 Asia Research Organization (ARO) Tri-Media Study.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

INQUIRER OBITUARIES

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT • MESSAGE OF THANKS • DEATH ANNIVERSARY • REQUIEMS • FREE OBIT DESIGN

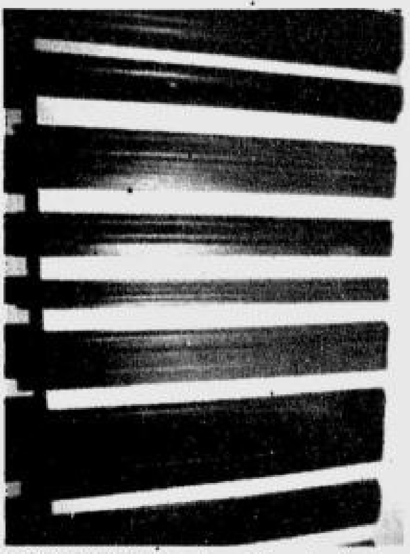
For the needs of your departed Loved Ones, the following establishments can help you.

ARLINGTON MEMORIAL CHAPEL
12 G Araneta Avenue, Quezon City Tels 715-1025; 715-1031; 715-1027
ARLINGTON EAST THE GARDEN CHAPELS
C Raymundo St cor Mercedes Ave , San Miguel Ave., Pasig City
Tels 747-8599, 747-8609 • Telefax 641-1760
AUREA QUIOGUE FUNERAL HOMES
243 A B Fernandez Ave , Dagupan City, Pangasinan
Tels (0785) 522 3451, 522-2128, (0917) 434-9976
CAPITOL MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
1305 G Araneta Avenue, Quezon City Tel 732-0309, 732-1095
CEBU ROLLING HILLS MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
Cebu Branch A S Fortuna Street Banilad Mandaue City, Cebu; Tels. 346-2543; 346-2001
COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES, INC.
Nivel Hills Lahug Cebu City Tels 231 0721, 231-3192
COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES, INC.
Cumus Ext cor J Abad Santos, Davao City, Tels. (082) 227-1201; 227-1258
DAYAO FUNERAL HOME
#2 Bayani St Galas Quezon City Tels 740-2683; 781-3705; 781-3588; 413-9400; 715-5594
DALLUAY MEMORIAL SERVICES
#42 Upper Kalaklan Olongapo City
Tels (047) 222 3505, (047) 611-1086; (047) 222-4512; (047) 224-2014
DON BOSCO CHAPELS
Pasay Road Makati City Tel 894-5932 to 34
DULCE MEMORIAL SERVICES
Jose Abad Santos Ave cor Dinalupihan St , Manuguit, Manila
Tels 712 5102, 741-5125, 741 5133, Fax No. 711-3084
FLORESCO FUNERAL HOME
219 Gen Luna St Concepcion, Malabon, Metro Manila; Tels. 2812963; 2813034; 2810622
FUNERARIA PANGILINAN
Santo Entierro cor P Burgos St , Lourdes Sur, Angeles City
Tels (045) 888 2959 , (045) 322 5247
PAKET SANTIAGO MEMORIAL HOMES
13 V Gomez St San Roque Marikina City, Tels. 646-1725; 646-1730
FUNERARIA ANGEL QUIOGUE
No 67 Pasig Boulevard Extension Pasig City; Tels 641-7909, 641-1735
M Almeda St Pateros Metro Manila, Tels. 642-3010, 633-3602
FUNERARIA FILIPINAS
107 Real St , Zapote Alabang, Las Piñas; Tels. 873-0507; 873-0024
FUNERARIA FILIPINAS
865 J P Rizal St Poblacion, Makati City; Tels. 890-3556; 899-8191
FUNERARIA TUASON
Poblacion San Miguel Bulacan 3011; Tels. (044) 764-0281; 678-0260; (0917) 895-0003
FUNERARIA SAMSON
145 Bayan Luma Imus Cavite Tels (046) 471-3375; 471-2675
GARDEN OF MEMORIES MEMORIAL PARK
Catsadang Bago Pateros, Metro Manila, Tels 642-6181 to 82
HERITAGE PARK
Bayani Road Fort Bonifacio, Taguig Metro Manila
Tels (DL) 845-2341 to 42; (TL) 845-2334 to 38 loc. 110/112

HOLY TRINITY MEMORIAL CHAPELS
Sucat, Parañaque City Tels 825 1296 825 1291
LA FUNERARIA LAWRENCE BAQUIRAN
#27 Crisologo St , Vigan, Ilocos Sur
Tel 722-2730, Cell (0917) 5680138, (0917) 5680145
Manila #23 Palo St., Project 2, Quezon City Tel 434-3258
LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
1501 C.M. Recto Ave. cor. T. Mapua, Manila; Tels 711-6931 to 35, 732-4795, 732-2627
LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
143 G. Araneta Ave cor Kaliraya St , Quezon City
Tels. 749-3806 to 11, 712 3001, 743-6502 or 05
LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
70 Naguilian Rd., Baguio City; Tel (074) 443 3337 (074) 442 3117
LA FUNERARIA SAPINOSO
G. Tirona St., Imus, Cavite; Tels. (046) 471-3385, (046) 471 4417 (046) 571 1978
LOYOLA MEMORIAL CHAPELS
EDSA cor. Bernardino St., Guadalupe Makati City, Tels 895 1011 to 19
LOYOLA MEMORIAL PARK CHAPELS
& CREMATORY SERVICES
Loyola Memorial Park, A Bonifacio Avenue, Tañong Marikina City
Tels. 941-3198 to 98 941 3676 Telefax 941 3577
MARIAN MEMORIAL CHAPELS
Marcos Hiway, Antipolo, Rizal, Tels 645 1855 682 0209 682 0210
MT. SINAI MEMORIAL CHAPEL
Arellano St., Dagupan City; Tels. (075) 515-5900, 515 6529 522-8763 (0919) 348 7131
NACIONAL MEMORIAL HOMES
284 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City Tels 713 5231 to 35 714 0867 714 0868
POPULAR MEMORIAL CHAPELS, INC.
214 Rizal Ave Sta Cruz Manila Tel Nos 254 0867 254 0839
ROLLING HILLS MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
Ground Flr. Rolling Hills Chapel, 27th-Lacson St , Mandalagan Bacolod City Tel 433 7132
RIZAL FUNERAL HOMES
438 Cementina St , Pasay City Tels 831 1204
Sucat Branch: 8187 Dr A Santos Ave Sucat Parañaque City
Tels 826 1376 826 9882 (0915) 712 1220
SANTUARIO DE SAN ANTONIO PARISH
Forbes Park, Makati City, Tel Nos 843 0830 30 Fax No 843 9223
SANTUARIO DE SAN JOSE PARISH
East Greenhills, Mandaluyong City Telefax 724 4139 725 2044
ST. ALPHONSUS MARY DE LIGOURI PARISH
Magallanes Village Makati City Tels 852 8228 852 7284
ST. MARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL
16-15 G. Tuazon cor. Loreto St., Sampaloc Manila Tels 749 1679 781 1772
ST. PETER FUNERAL HOMES
296 Quezon Ave , Quezon City Tels 372 5084 410 9246 87
VERONICA MEMORIAL HOMES
Official NBI Morgue 617-A Arnaiz St., Pasay City, Tels 831 3737 844 7846 843 1801 845 4818
WELINGTON FUNERAL SERVICES
1511 Gen. Luna St., Paco, Manila, Tels. 522-8846, 522-9438, 400-5394

REALESTATE

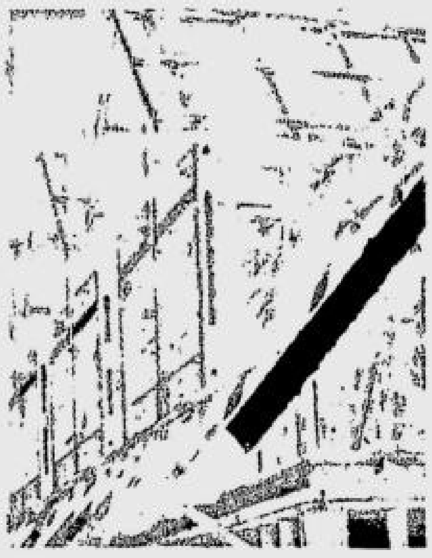
Editor Cesar D. Mangawang



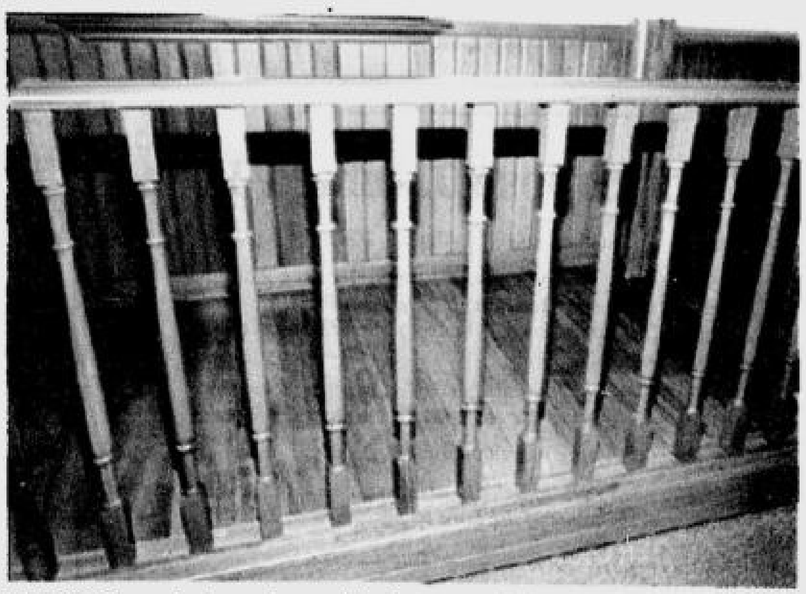
SEVERAL Matwood molding designs

PHOTOS BY JOHNNY VILLENA

MATWOOD door and doorjambs



ITS engineered framing is cost-effective and easy to work with.



MATWOOD products can be used in almost any design and structure.

Bringing wood's unique appeal to every structure

By Charles E. Buban

WOOD has always been a part of every home construction and interior design. And who would resist its appeal? It is incredibly versatile and can be used for all sorts of styles—whether its rustic or modern—wood possesses timeless appeal.

Building homes from wooden material is now enjoying a revival. This revival is hardly surprising since wood is cost-effective, easier to work with and esthetically appealing. Also the latest technologies have made today's wood more resistant to its usual enemies like moisture and pests.

In fact, one wood manufacturing and distribution company is touring the country to send this message across with a series of exhibits featuring their world-class, innovative and affordable wood products under the brand name Matwood.

Matwood is Matimco Inc.'s special line of framings, doors, doorjambs, floorings, panelings and moldings that's professionally treated with Solignum, a light organic solvent preservative using a technically advanced double vacuum pressure treatment. This process keeps all Matwood products resistant to termites, woodborers and fungal decay.

Under the Matwood brand, Matimco carries over 600 different product items.

"Filipinos now have a wood product that is unmistakably at par with the world standards. Forget those old notions about wood—Matwood is not your ordinary wood—as we put our name on it and our 10-year warranty against woodborers, termites and fungal decay," assured Charlie Liu, CEO of Matimco.

High-tech process used

"The advantage of solvent-based Solignum is it can penetrate deeper into the wood unlike water-based counterparts. They are also kiln-dried, which makes the wood more resistant to twisting and warping than sun-dried ones," explained Liu.

The vacuum process involves four stages. Starting with the initial vacuum, the air is drawn out of the wood creating a vacuum between the cells of the wood. This is followed by flooding wherein the treatment vessel is immersed with Solignum. The vacuum created draws the chemical deep into the wood's structure.

On the third stage, an impregnation pressure is applied to keep the chemical locked in to the wood. And lastly, to remove any excess preservatives on the surface a final vacuum is applied so no contaminant may drip from the product.

Another ecological concern is also taken into consideration in every Matwood product made. Liu revealed that their timbers are being sourced from abroad to ensure the country's limited forest reserves are kept intact. "We never use timbers from endangered rainforests, especially here in the country where it's almost depleted. Instead, we look for Philippine Lauan substitutes from Malaysia, Brazil, Indonesia and other locations where strict forestry management policies are exercised."

Partnership with NHA

During Matwood exhibit's formal launch in Glorietta last week, Matimco turned over more than a truckload (for 10 housing units) of Matwood Engineered Framings to religious organization Couples for Christ for its various charity construction projects in Sapang Palay, Bulacan.

Witnessing the turnover was National Housing Authority president and general manager Ed Pamintuan, who said his office is exploring possibilities of partnership with Matimco in its future low-cost housing projects. "We are tasked to deliver some 300,000 units this year and I don't see any reason we can't tap Matimco in providing cost-efficient materials for our future projects."

The Matwood exhibit will be touring other malls around the country until this month. Matimco believes that through these series of mall visits they will be able to impart valuable information and construction ideas using Matwood products.

Apart from the exhibit, Matwood products can also be seen in such showrooms as Anson's Commercial Arcade in Makati City; SM Megamall A in Mandaluyong City; Festival Supermall, Filinvest Corporate City, Alabang, Muntinlupa; and Subangdaku in Mandaue City, Cebu.

Matimco is formerly Mandaue Timber Co. founded by Liu in 1963. Beginning as lumber retailer and a wood case manufacturer, Matimco has grown to be one of the biggest and most advanced wood processing plants in the country today. Its main plant is located on Hi-way Estancia, Mandaue City, Cebu.

New technology, creative financing to tackle housing backlog, says PCA

THE PHILIPPINE Constructors Association yesterday urged the government to be more creative in financing housing development and not to focus only on end-user financing in response to the country's backlog of five million housing units for low- and middle-income families.

PCA president Justo E. Manalo said the limiting factors facing the low- and middle-income housing market are the inadequate supply of subsidized government financing and the limited production capability of the industry.

Thus, the PCA head said there is an urgent need to address these limiting factors by introducing new construction technologies designed to enhance production capacities, while the government and the banking sector should be more creative in financing aspects of housing development and not limit its focus only on end-users financing.

MANALO

Innovation

Manalo said the Australian government's innovation in providing a cash rebate for all first-time housing owners jumpstarted its current housing development upsurge. "Such is a model worthy of emulation," he stressed.

He called the low- and middle-income market as "most promising" as demand is based more on real need rather than on speculations. Overseas Filipino workers who acquire housing units for their respective families further invigorate the market, Manalo said.

While the prospects for the construction industry for the moment do not seem bright, Manalo said, the housing development sector offers "the strongest prospects" backed by household formation.

Unmet demand

The backlog of housing units is further aggravated by an annual demand estimated at 620,000 units which cannot be fully addressed by government-initiated housing programs. This, he said, leaves a huge unmet demand for private housing developers to address.

Manalo said the performance of the local construction industry is strongly influenced by the country's political and economic environment. The economic environment, coupled with a more stabilized political situation can propel the industry to a new accelerated growth phase.

The 1,500 PCA members handle 70 to 80 percent of the country's annual construction turnover. Recognized as the "voice of the industry," PCA is represented in all government bodies involved in policy formulation and implementation.

"We have seen tremendous increases of construction projects of varied types and usage and felt a strong demand across all product lines in a market that has expanded geographically and structurally whenever such a situation occurs, as in the past."

Philcemcor assails Creba for misleading report on cement

THE PHILIPPINE Cement Manufacturers Corp. (Philcemcor) has scored the Chambers of Real Estate and Builders' Association (Creba) for supporting the cartel of cement importers by issuing baseless allegations against the local cement industry.

For instance, Creba said in its release that imported cement cost only P60-P65 per bag. The truth is while the imports' average landed cost is about P58 per 40-kg bag, they are sold retail at practically the same prices as local cement and at times even higher than the local cement. A Department of Trade and Industry report indicated that last November the selling price of imported cement was P145 per bag or P5 higher than the local cement.

Who's benefiting

In other words, Philcemcor said consumers do not benefit from imported cement as their prices just go along in parallel manner with domestic cement prices in the process raking in profits of more than 50 percent for importers and middlemen.

It added that the benefits generated by imported cement accrue to foreign countries where imported cements are produced and to a few Filipino importers and traders who rapidly become multimillionaires.

"While there are attempts to prevent us from defending our industry, here's Taiwan at the behest of Taiwan Cement Corp., closing their market to Philippine cement by imposing a 45 percent tariff on all Philippine cement despite its measly 4 percent market share in Taiwan," Philcemcor noted.

TCC Cement was the same company that was caught last year by the Bureau of Customs smuggling imported cement, it was added.

Indonesia and Japan have imposed nontariff barriers making it almost impossible to export there, it was added.

Economic benefits

In terms of economic benefits, the cement industry employs directly about 10,000 workers in various cement plants in the country. It is estimated that about 350,000 people in all the rural areas where the cement plants are located depend on the local cement industry for their livelihood. This does not include the other businesses that although are not essential to the operations of the plants nonetheless thrive as a result of the operations of the plants, Philcemcor said.

It also added that the industry pays substantial local and national taxes. From 1993-1998, local cement producers have paid about P4.6 billion in income taxes. In a joint study with the Federation of Philippine Industries, it is estimated that the cement industry's potential tax generating power if it were running at healthy levels approximates P10 billion per year of income to local and national government, it added.

Local governments outside Metro Manila where the cement plants operate are dependent on the industry for revenue collection, it said.

It added that in 2000, while 97 workers in one cement plant paid P3.1 million in taxes, ironically, four of the largest cement importers paid only P951,000.

Biggest crisis

Philcemcor warns that the cement industry is facing the biggest crisis since its inception over eight decades. It added that unless the government intervenes, the collapse of the cement industry is imminent.

Surging cement imports into the Philippines are driving the local cement industry into bankruptcy, it was added.

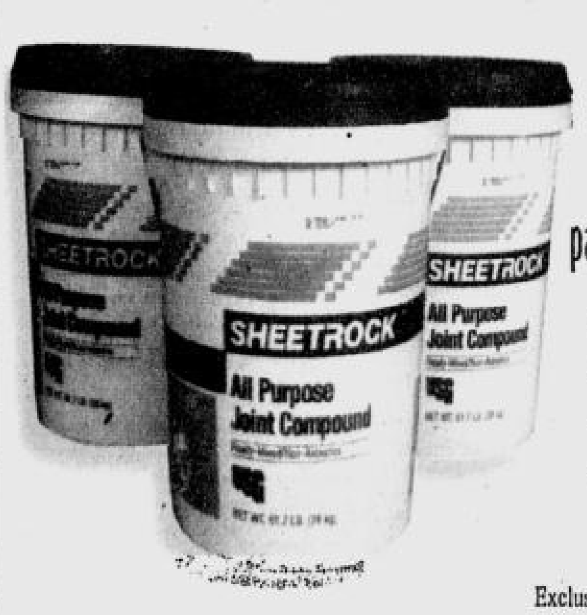
Before the tariff relief of P20.60, the Philippines imposes only 3 percent and 5 percent tariff on imported cements from Asean and non-Asean member-countries, respectively.

It was stated that the local cement industry has been seriously injured as defined by Philippine Safeguard Measures Regulations and WTO principles. The imports' market share has increased by 597 percent while the capacity utilization declined by 27.7 percent, employment declined by 44.8 percent and the losses increased by 375.4 percent.

Propaganda ploy

Philcemcor also disputed Creba's claim that the cost of cement comprises 45 percent of the housing construction, saying that it represents only 5 percent of the construction based on the January 2000 CRC Report on the "Structure and Competitiveness of the Philippine Cement Industry."

It also stressed that the use of the words "cement cartel" is a propaganda ploy meant to divert attention away from the cement import controversy.



USG SHEETROCK®

Your all purpose ready-mixed putty...

Ideal for patching cracks/gaps on:

- Wood
- Concrete
- Gypsum boards
- Fiber cement boards

Exclusively Distributed by:

Skydragon Construction Products, Inc.
#100 Danny Floro St., Bagong Ilog, Pasig City
Tel. Nos.: 910-7122; 910-7123
Telefax: 671-6615
Email: skycon@pacific.net.ph

WANTED DEALERS:

In Bacolod, Cebu, Davao, Cagayan de Oro, Iloilo, Bicol Region

Best value shopping at Federal Hardware

FEDERAL Hardware Builder's Center, the one-stop destination for professional builders and do-it-yourself enthusiasts, carries the lowest prices in the market on certain categories of building materials and tools.

The first builder's center to popularize PVC doors, more popularly known as "plastic doors," Federal Hardware now offers these waterproof doors made of polyvinyl chloride for only P995. Hand tools such as pliers and screwdrivers and bathroom accessories are also available at low, low prices.

Federal Hardware also has the largest and most complete inventory of local and imported tile products.

Federal Hardware's flagship store is located on Chino Roces Avenue, Makati City, with branches at Cainta, Taytay and Calamba.

L&M Maxco turns 7

L&M Maxco Co. Inc., one of the leading triple AAA construction firms in the country, recently held a cocktail party for clients, suppliers, subcontractors, architects, construction managers, its management and staff at the Manila Polo Club to celebrate its 7th year of operations in the Philippines.

Attended by several luminaries and prominent personalities representing various institutions, L&M Maxco announced its desire to make its celebration more meaningful by committing a percentage of its net income to the Holy Trinity Home for the Children for its expansion so that this halfway house can accommodate less privileged members of society.

The company is partly owned by L&M Investment Group in Singapore, which is a publicly listed firm with worldwide operations focusing on engineering and construction business.

Farming for urban dwellers

By Tessa R. Salazar

OWN a 750- to 2,000-square-meter farm near a water irrigation system. With a modest house for your rest time, the farm estate would be away from the noise pollution and traffic of the city. You can toil and plant on your own free time, or have somebody do it for you.

If you're the typical city dweller who's been longing for respite during weekends but don't want to play golf, mountain climb or buy a beach resort or a rest house, this scenario could be for you. And you don't have to travel too far from the metropolis, either.

A new farmlot development in Barangay Paradahan, Tanza, Cavite (47 km south of Makati, 24 km away from SM Bacoor), would make possible and affordable for anyone who'd be interested to own a farm.

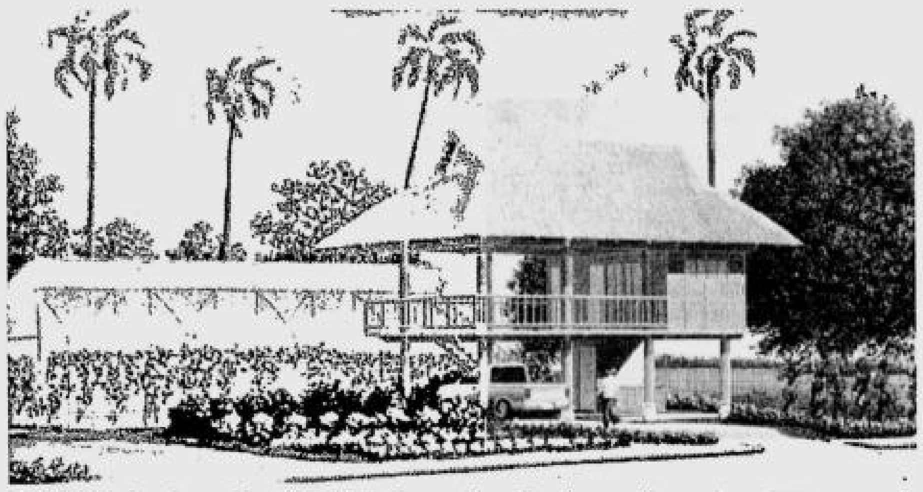
What's more, Filinvest Land Inc. will also offer farmlots in Laguna and Rizal.

Launched last month, the 200-hectare Nusa Dua Farm Estate in Tanza is the first farmlot development of Filinvest Land Inc. Deriving its inspiration from Bali, the name Nusa Dua means "authentic paradise" or "beautiful place."

The farming activities include vegetable growing, horticulture and aquaculture. A produce market will help growers get their harvest to customers. Promising possibilities include high value vegetables, vine fruits such as melons, exotic fruit trees, ornamental plants and the like.

The farm estate, with 1,500 farmlots, offers the land at a price range of P1,600 to P1,800 per sq. m. The smallest lot measures 750 sq. m, as per government ruling. That means a typical farm could cost you around P1.2 million, which could be payable in 10 years. Bank financing, as well as Pag-Ibig financial assistance, are two options for easier payments.

Said Gilbert Ang, marketing manager in business development for Nusa Dua Farm Estate: "We're exploring every primary option in our policies, that's why we're working out with Pag-Ibig Fund, especially now that interest rates in banks are low. We're looking into every financing scheme that could be availed of by our buyers."



A TYPICAL farmlot at Nusa Dua Farm Estate. Nusa Dua is a quality project of Filinvest Land.

Farm with a guard house

The farm estate features a 20-meter-wide entrance with a guard house and a concrete main road, from which stem out accessible secondary roads leading to individual shallow wells, electrical facilities and barbed wire-fenced farmlots. Like a subdivision development, it has multipurpose hall, a swimming pool, a children's playground area, picnic grounds, jogging trails and walkways.

To ensure farming productivity, Filinvest has invested on water irrigation and supply systems, capitalizing on Cavite's year-round tropical climate for crop consistency.

Filinvest Land shelled out P200 million for the initial phase of Nusa Dua. The turnover of the farmlots to its owners is scheduled early next year.

Also ready to be developed within the year are farmlots in Calamba and San Pedro towns in Laguna and in San Mateo, Rizal. Six hundred seventy-seven hectares in San Mateo promise to be a master-planned community, of which a portion will be developed into farmlots.

Outlet

Said Ang: "We're exploring a different market now because we believe that Filipinos are more conscious and would want value for their money. Compared to buying an ordinary residential lot at P3,000 per sq. m, one can buy a farmlot at half the price and potential for additional income."

With the economic conditions, stressed out professionals need an outlet, he added. With Nusa Dua's arrangement, one can either choose to become a weekend farmer or hire laborers to assist the owner at the farm. Its estate services include a showcase farm, farm equipment, technical expertise from farm consultants, seminar rooms, a supply depot and a produce market, and assistance from laborers.

Weekend market

Ang said that Nusa Dua would not become abandoned farmlots by buyers ignorant of farming methods.

"We know ours will succeed because we have devised all forms of assistance to farmlot buyers, even in the selling of their produce since we will be providing a weekend market where we will teach them how to dispose of their harvest."

On July 7, the Nusa Dua Farm Estate will have its first fruits of harvest. From the looks of it, Filinvest could very well get the fruits of its own labor.

HLUBB implementing rules, regulations elitist

By Florentino S. Dulalia Jr.
Contributor

AMERICAN economist Murray L. Weidenbaum once made a study which showed that numerous zoning, land-use, building code and other government regulations on housing actually increased the cost of each new housing unit by thousands of dollars—and this was at a time when a lot of people could not afford the price of a home.

This is indeed true in our present situation. Government regulatory agencies use "public welfare" as the reason for increasing or changing rules and regulations. But do these regulations truly work for public interest? The irony is that for lack of thorough studies and consultations with all concerned sectors, some government regulations which are drawn up for the purpose of improving business and industry actually disrupt growth and intervene with productive endeavors.

Of particular concern to the housing industry at present are some of the revised rules and regulations of the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board or HLURB, the sole regulatory body for housing and land development. Recently, it came up with revised implementing rules and regulations (IRRs) for Batas Pambansa 220, Presidential Decree 957 and related laws. BP 220 authorizes the HLURB to set minimum standards for socialized and low-cost housing projects.

I will be citing a number of these revised IRRs which the Chamber of Real Estate and Builders' Associations views as "elitist" and baseless, unrealistic, arbitrary or unjust.

- **Twenty percent actual project completion as a requisite to the issuance of license to sell.** This has no basis under PD 957 and BP 220. It is elitist in nature as only the biggest conglomerates in the housing industry would be able to pursue land and housing development projects under this regulation.

In effect, this IRR "frowns" on preselling which is a scheme that has worked well for the mutual advantage of both developer and buyer. Preselling enables the developer to reduce borrowings, thereby cutting down on interest expense and other financing costs. These savings are passed on to the buyer in the form of a lower selling price of a house package.

The HLURB can protect the buyers better by enforcing the performance bond requirement more strictly and exercising its power to forfeit or take over a project from delinquent or unscrupulous developers.

- **Price ceiling.** The HLURB cannot and should not intervene in the pricing of lots and/or house-and-lot packages under BP 220 or PO 957 for the simple reason that 1) there is no law that empowers the HLURB or any other government agency to do so; and 2) the selling price should be what the seller and the buyer mutually agree upon.

There are price ceilings under the government's homelending program, but these are applicable only to projects enrolled for funding under this program. The HLURB cannot set price ceilings indiscriminately as this act runs contrary to the principle of free enterprise.

- **Suspension/nonissuance of license for present and proposed projects on the basis of mere complaints of buyers.** In the absence of due process, suspending or disallowing the issuance of a license to sell because of a buyer's complaint is totally unjust and arbitrary. The HLURB or any other adjudicatory body or a tribunal must first hear the case and conduct a full and proper inquiry before rendering any undue judgment.

- **Requirements that lots designed for duplex, row houses and single attached should have housing components.** In view of the prohibitive prices of land in Metro Manila, people buy lots and build their housing units later to suit their plans and budgets. This regulation in effect deprives those who cannot afford the price of a house-and-lot package the opportunity to acquire a small residential lot. If at all, this regulation may be applicable in places outside of Metro Manila, where prices of house-and-lot packages may be within reach of low-income buyers.

(To be continued)

DESIGN IDEAS FOR CONDO LIVING

Pioneer Pointe units open for viewing

FILINVEST launches a new residential/office development in Mandaluyong City, as it opens for viewing three model units of Pioneer Pointe, a 28-story condominium that offers the convenience of living in the heart of a progressive city.

Located on Pioneer Street, near the corner of Reliance Street in Mandaluyong, the model units feature Pioneer Pointe's upper- and lower-level studios and two-level, two-bedroom units with carefully designed interiors and complete appliances and furnishings. Designed by Erfe & Associates, the model units were created to showcase Pioneer Pointe's salient features and to give clients ideas on interior design possibilities for the units.

Ideal location

Pioneer Pointe enjoys an ideal location in the heart of Mandaluyong City, now recognized as one of Metro Manila's progressive central business districts. Mid-way between Makati and Ortigas, it puts you close to these bustling business centers yet comfortably apart. It is also within walking distance to Edsa and the Boni MRT station, giving it the edge of accessibility.

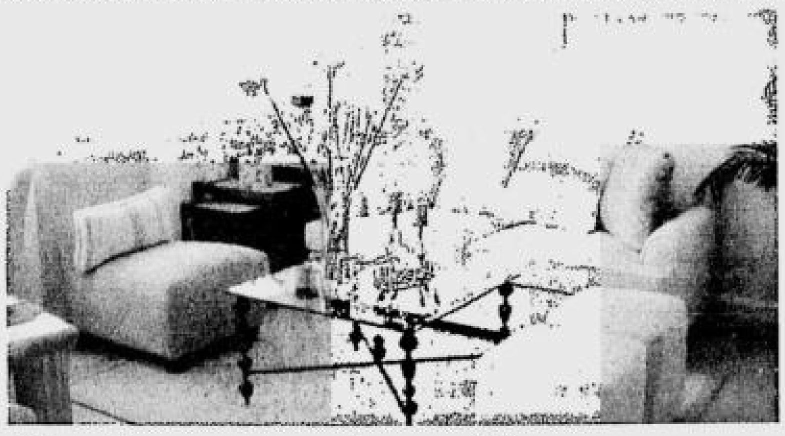
Living in Pioneer Pointe also puts everything your family needs within reach. Down the street is PC Mart, Pioneer's fast-rising supermarket and commercial center for your daily needs. Also nearby are the best schools, churches, shopping malls and hospitals. Right at home, Pioneer Pointe offers amenities that include a function room, swimming pool, sundeck and children's play area.

Very affordable

The best part about Pioneer Pointe is that it has been made very affordable with a new concept called "shared development." Now, you can acquire a studio or two-level, two-bedroom unit at exactly the cost to build it. Risk-free from start to finish, and with flexible payment terms, it puts your dream condo within reach.

Through the "shared development" concept you are made a co-developer and co-owner of the project with an initial capital contribution of only 30 percent of the unit cost. As co-developer and co-owner, you enjoy big savings as the developer's profit is eliminated from the investment cost. Absolutely risk-free, the bank holds your money in a trust fund in your name until the targeted pool of investors is reached and construction begins. Definitely, condo convenience has never been this easy and affordable.

The Pioneer Pointe model units are open daily from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. For scheduling of guided tours, interested parties may call 687-1155 or 687-1177.



LIVING ROOM of a two-bedroom unit

Faster construction pace for Moldex residential condo

CONSTRUCTION activity has gone on a much faster pace for 1322 Roxas Boulevard, a premiere residential condominium on Roxas Boulevard in Ermita, Manila, as development nears its completion phase.

In a progress report to unit buyers, Moldex Realty Marketing Inc. said floor toppings at the front and back tower have been substantially completed. The same is true with the exterior wall rectification, fire protection system, elevation works, waterproofing and gondola works. Other phases of work, including the application of sealer and textured paint on breezeways and concrete walls, are in progress.

The glass cladding for Tower I is almost complete, paving the way for interior finishing works which will be scheduled as soon as the tower is completely sealed off and declared water tight.

When completed, 1322 Roxas Boulevard will be home to unit owners who are mostly businessmen, young and highly mobile professionals as well as retirees who like the spectacular view of the Manila Bay sunset and the historical significance of The Strip.

The units are designed according to the high standards of quality set forth by its owner-developer Moldex Land Inc., contractor DM Consunji Inc. and consultants—Architectural International (architectural design); Oue Arup & Partners (structural design); JA Shillinglaw & Associates (curtain wall); Davis Langdon and Seah (quantity surveying); MEL Consultants Pty. Ltd. and Rowan Williams Davis & Irwin (wind tunnel testing); Rolf Jensen & Associates (fire protection); First Pacific Davies (property management); and Horton-Lees Lighting Design Inc. (lighting). TCGI serves as 1322's construction managers.

Your Total Solution to any Waterproofing Problem

FLEXSEAL™
Elastomeric Paint
Total waterproofing protection for walls, floors & other general waterproofing requirements

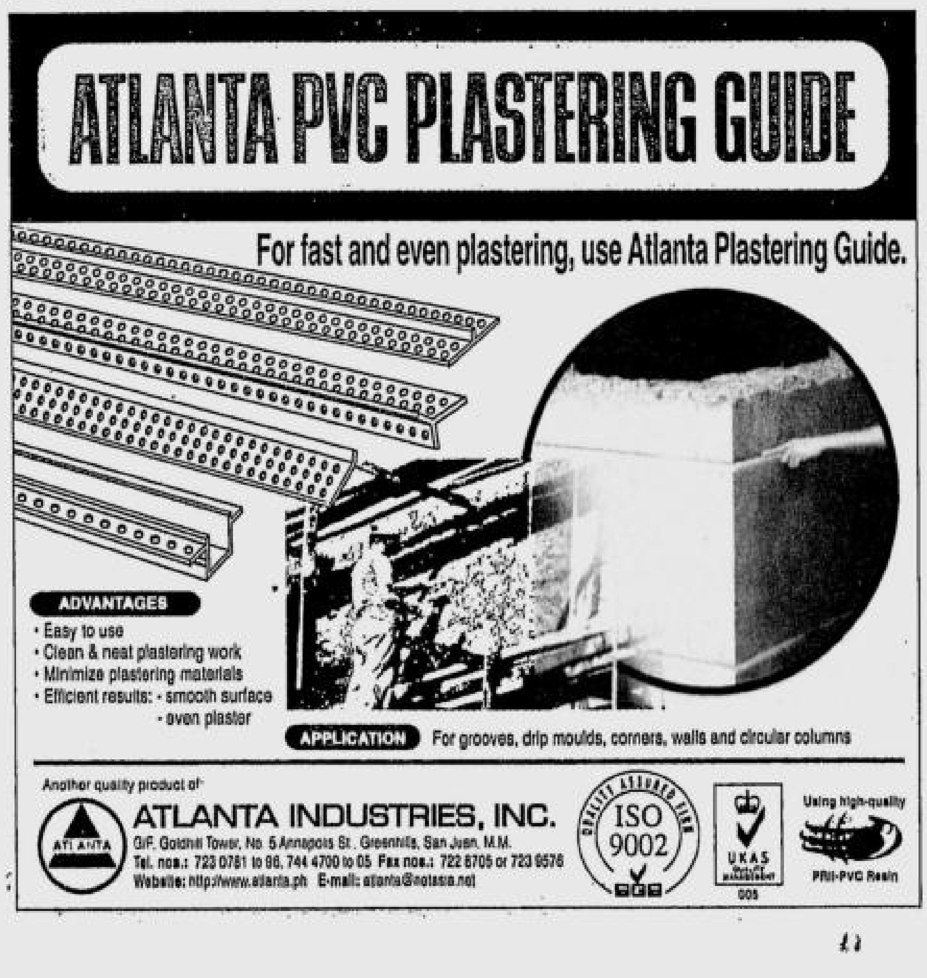
SUPERSEAL
Cementitious Waterproofing Coating
Heavy-duty cement-based waterproofing protection for walls, floors, basements, water tanks and other water-holding structures

TILESTIK
Waterproof Tile Adhesive & Grout
Waterproof, high strength cement-based tile adhesive & grout for interior/exterior wall and floor, thick and thin bed application, not affected by continual exposure to water

'from the most trusted name in waterproofing:
CAMPBRIDGE Waterproofing Systems, Inc
1370 JOSE ABAD SANTOS AVE., METRO MANILA, PHILIPPINES
Tel. Nos. 252-05-31 up to 32; 252-05-49 up to 51; 252-05-59; Fax No.: 252-05-50
Website: www.campbridge.com

Distributor for Northern Luzon:
DAGUPAN TONY'S LUMBER INC. (PROBUILD)
AB Fernandez Ave. Dagupan Tel-No. (075) 523-4113 to 14/522-0477
Distributor for Visayas and Mindanao:
CEBU OVERSEA HARDWARE CO., INC.
#87 Plaridel St. Cebu City Tel No. (032) 254-1511 Fax No. (032) 52476

AVAILABLE THROUGH DEALERS NATIONWIDE



ATLANTA PVC PLASTERING GUIDE

For fast and even plastering, use Atlanta Plastering Guide.

ADVANTAGES
- Easy to use
- Clean & neat plastering work
- Minimize plastering materials
- Efficient results: · smooth surface
  · even plaster

APPLICATION For grooves, drip moulds, corners, walls and circular columns

Another quality product of
ATLANTA INDUSTRIES, INC.
G/F, Goldhill Tower, No. 5 Annapolis St., Greenhills, San Juan, M.M.
Tel. nos.: 723 0781 to 96, 744 4700 to 05 Fax nos.: 722 6705 or 723 6576
Website: http://www.atlanta.ph E-mail: atlanta@netasia.net

ISO 9002
UKAS
Using high-quality PRII-PVC Resin

GOLD MAPLE FLOOR LAMINATES
- Durable
- Easy to install
- Easy to clean, No wax care
- Does not need sanding, varnishing or polishing
- Easy to maintain
- Affordable
- Long lift span
- Comfortable
- Hygienic
- Meets the demands of commercial environment.

ONLY P495.00 per SQ.M.

MULTI-RICH HOME DECORS, INC.
488 Boni Ave. Ext. cor. San Joaquin St. Mandaluyong City
Tels:531-6396; 531-5044; 532-1147; 533-2027 Fax: 533-2026

PRESTIGE DOORS
P995.00 Only
DEALERS WELCOME!
ANOTHER QUALITY PRODUCT OF:
EUROTILES INDUSTRIAL CORPORATION TEL. 893-1651

Congress sets used auto importation probe

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

CONGRESS will conduct a probe on the surge in second hand vehicle imports because of their dire impact on the local automotive assembly and parts making industry and the lingering doubts on their roadworthiness and environment-compliance.

House Speaker Jose De Venecia signed Resolution No. 208 directing the House committees on transportation and communications and trade and industry to investigate why the auction and the importation of pre-owned vehicles has continued despite a directive by President Macapagal-Arroyo stopping this trade during the National Economic Summit in December.

"There is a reason to believe that the growing and unabated importation of second-hand motor vehicles is inimical to a viable domestic motor vehicle industry and the development of a competitive local automotive parts sector for the export market," De Venecia said.

In a letter to Malacañang, the American Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (Amcham) and Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Philippines (JCCI) claimed that one used car sold here displaces one locally manufactured product and that used car imports and the development of a domestic industry could not viably co-exist.

Acting on the complaint of American and Japanese vehicle makers, the Department of Trade and Industry formed a committee to look into the legal basis of importing and converting right-hand drive vehicles in Subic. However, it has yet to come up with a report on the issue as the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority disputed the DTI's claim that its second-hand imports were illegal.

Aside from being a threat to the local industry, De Venecia said the House committees should also look into allegations that the pre-owned units have inferior or defective parts. He said an investigation in the issue should prevent "innumerable damage and significant loss of life, limb and property in the nation's highways."

The Amcham and JCCI claimed that the used car imports pose a serious risk to health and safety concerns of the public because they fail to meet strict quality standards in the conversion of the units and the Clean Air Act which sets high emission standards.

BEHOLD HE COMES,
DODGE
DAKOTA Quad Cab
DAKOTA
Rugged, Robust, Muscular
yet gentle.
The Real Working Class Hero of Today.
Fully Dressed Up
• with Chrome Grill
• with Chrome Bumper
• with Chrome Rear Bumper
• with Stainless Step Tube
• with Spray on Bed Liner
• with Body Color Flair
Choose to be Different.

Officially distributed by: **NORKIS AUTOMOTIVE RESOURCES CORPORATION**

Dealers Nationwide:

Chrysler Mandaluyong
503 Boni Ave. cor San Rafael St.,
Mandaluyong City
TEL: 531-9075 to 79; 534-1992
FAX: 532-3398

Chrysler Quezon Avenue
1144 Quezon Avenue,
Quezon City
TEL: 411-2720/ 374-3911
FAX: 411-2721

Chrysler EDSA
449 EDSA Guadalupe,
Makati City
TEL: 882-1430; 882-6455;
531-0945; 531-4931
loc 240/ 270/ 271
FAX: 531-6707

Chrysler Cebu
A.S. Fortuna St.,
Mandaue City
TEL: (032) 345-6919 to 20
FAX: (032) 345-6910

Chrysler Ilo-Ilo
Mc Arthur Highway,
Tabuc-Suba Jaro,
Ilo-Ilo City
TEL: (033) 329-7793
(033)329-7794

Chrysler Davao
J.P. Laurel Ave.
Lanang, Davao City
TEL: (082) 234-7741
(082) 234-7742

Chrysler Bacolod
c/o TRANSCOR MOTORS, INC.
Araneta St., Singcang,
Bacolod City
TEL: (034) 435-0221 to 23
FAX: (034) 433-0330

Chrysler Tarlac
National Road
Paniqui, Tarlac

Parts and Service
Mopar
PARTS

A member of citigroup

Raising working capital will only take 15 minutes.

Loan-on-Phone through Citibank. Tawag na sa 423-3333 and get approval in 15 minutes.

Citibank Installment Loan. Give us a call (from 8:30 am to 8:30 pm Monday to Saturday), answer a few questions and we'll take care of the rest including delivering the loan proceeds to you. Borrow from P15,000 up to P1,000,000. No collateral required. 2001 ITR needed. Your monthly income may be as low as P10,000. Initially available in Metro Manila, Cavite, Laguna, Bulacan and Rizal Province. Terms and Conditions apply.

100 YEARS IN THE PHILIPPINES

citibank

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

For feedback, text us at (0918)917-5026 or email us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

LIFESTYLE

Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

Ab belts, lies and videotapes

Part II

WELL AND GOOD

Tina Juan

ACCORDING to the Federal Trade Commission, a US government agency tasked to protect the rights of consumers, a typical infomercial for fitness equipment will invariably feature fitness professionals who tout the products efficacy, user testimonials, photos of models sporting trim, sculpted midsections and purported expert opinions from health-care professionals. Infomercials for the three top-selling electronic ab belts—Fast Abs, AB Energizer and AbTronic—are no different.

But how sure are you that all these assertions are real? Okay, so you know in your heart that the fitness pros and models are being paid. Why else would they appear on the

AB/ p.C3

Know how sick in 1 second.

ARIVA

1·Second
Digital Thermometer

Call:
724-59-07
Available at:
Watson's
in all SM Supermalls
Nationwide

Unfold the secret of a beautiful skin...

SERVICES OFFERED

- Different kinds of Rejuvenation Facial Deep Cleansing
- Removal of warts, milia, syringoma & xanthelasma
- Comprehensive pimple & acne treatment
- Biocurative treatment
- Collagen treatment (wet & dry)
- Esthetic & AHA for post acne/pimple marks, freckles, pigmentation, dark spots on face, arms and legs.
- Soft waxing for unwanted hair
- Paraffin waxing for wrinkled hands
- Glycofusion & glutachips for body whitening & skin refining
- Aromabuff

NOW OPEN! Manila Branch

DERMATRIUM
Where Beauty Begins.

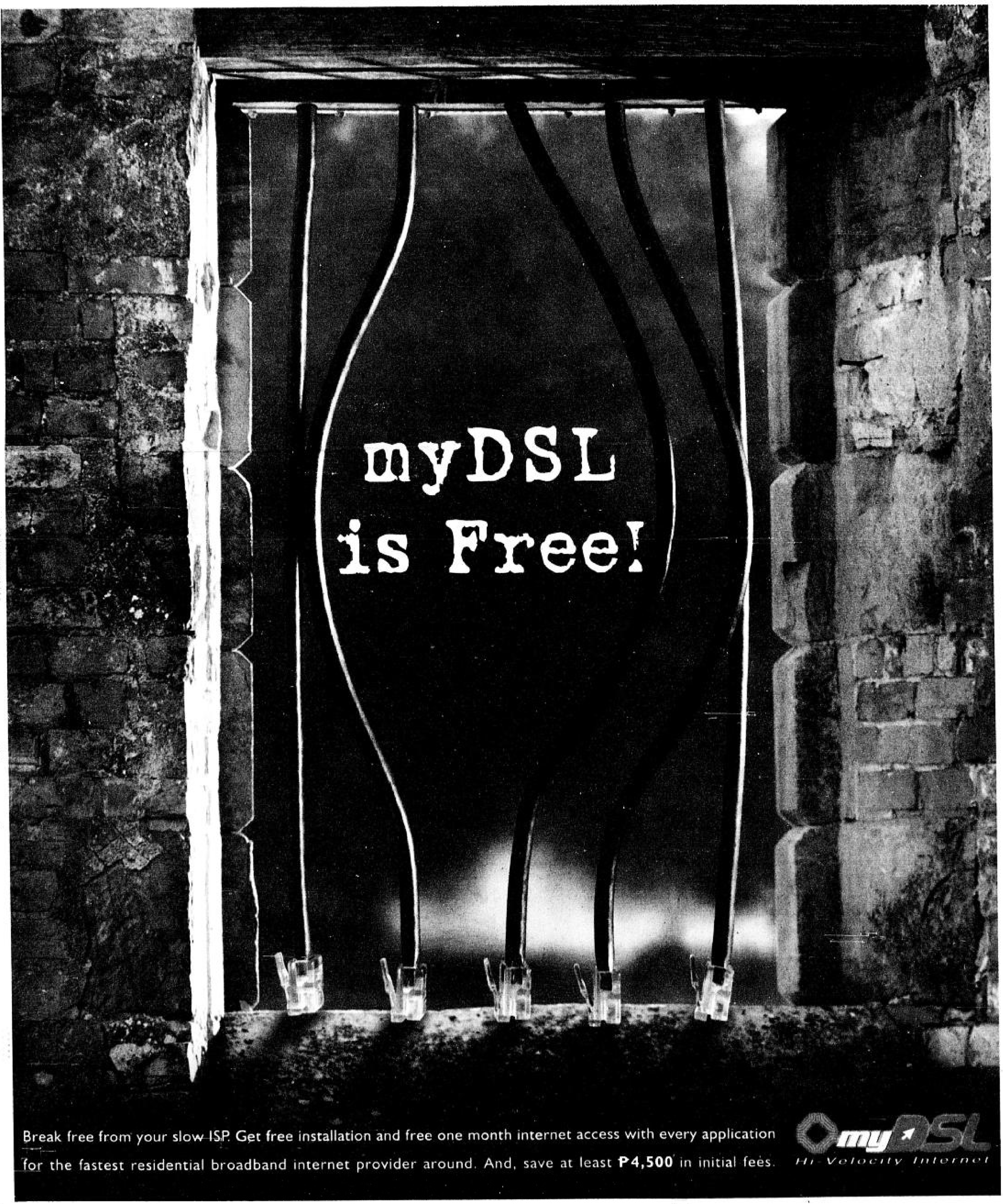
MAKATI
G-11 Prince Plaza Condominium
106 Legaspi St., Legaspi Vill.
Makati City
Tel: 893-5449 • 893-5387 • 893-5403

QUEZON CITY
1157-C MRE Bldg.
Quezon Avenue
Quezon City
Tel: 374-5174 to 75

ALABANG
UG-6 Industrial
Enterprises Business Center
Alabang-Zapote Road
Alabang, Muntinlupa
Tel: 807-4403 to 04

LEGAZPI CITY
Unit 2 Alcazar Bldg.,
Rizal St., Legazpi City
Tel: (052)480-6937
(052)820-8240

MANILA
TH-2 Times Plaza Bldg.
U.N. Ave. cor. Taft Ave.
Ermita, Manila
Tel: 404-2415



Break free from your slow ISP. Get free installation and free one month internet access with every application for the fastest residential broadband internet provider around. And, save at least ₱4,500 in initial fees.

myDSL
Hi-Velocity Internet

MECHANICS:

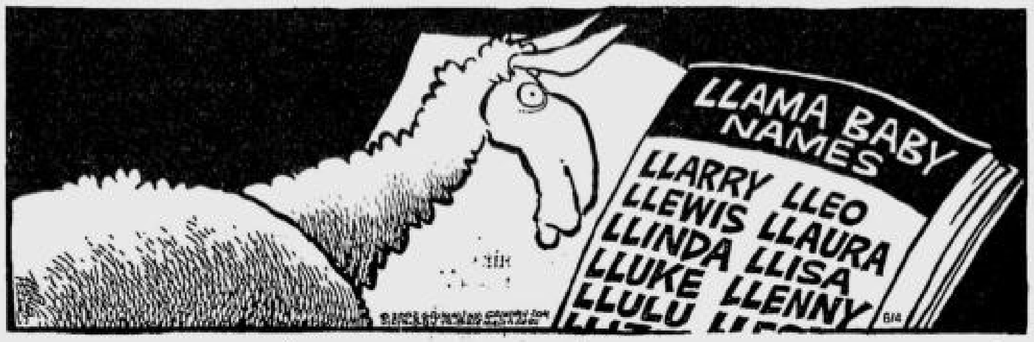
- This offer is open to all PLDT postpaid landline subscribers who apply for PLDT myDSL in DSL covered areas. They must be in good credit standing.
- If their telephone line is DSL capable, they will receive free installation plus one-month free subscription.
- Subscriptions must cover at least a one-year period. In the event that a subscriber terminates the connection, he will be charged ₱3,000.00 to cover all installation fees.

Promo period is from June 1 to August 31, 2002. Per DTI NCR Permit No. 1021. Series of 2002.

Call 171 or visit www.pldtdsl.com for more information on how to apply for PLDT myDSL. Available in Metro Manila and key cities nationwide.

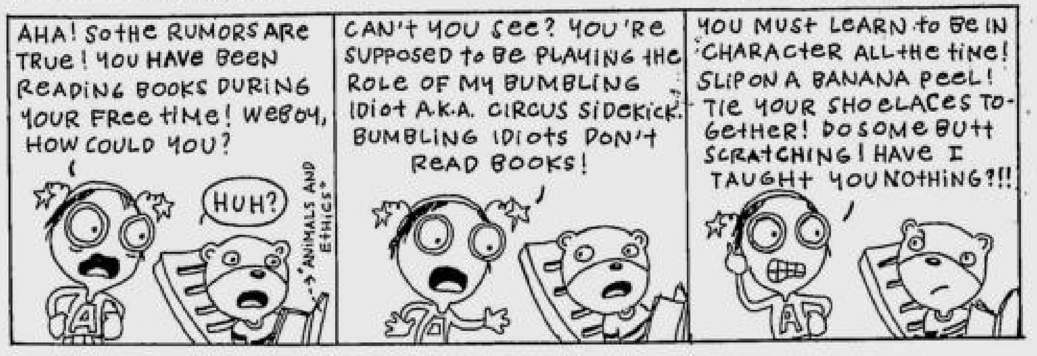
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


LLAMA BABY NAMES
LLARRY LLEO
LLEWIS LLAURA
LLINDA LLISA
LLUKE LLENNY
LLULU
6/4

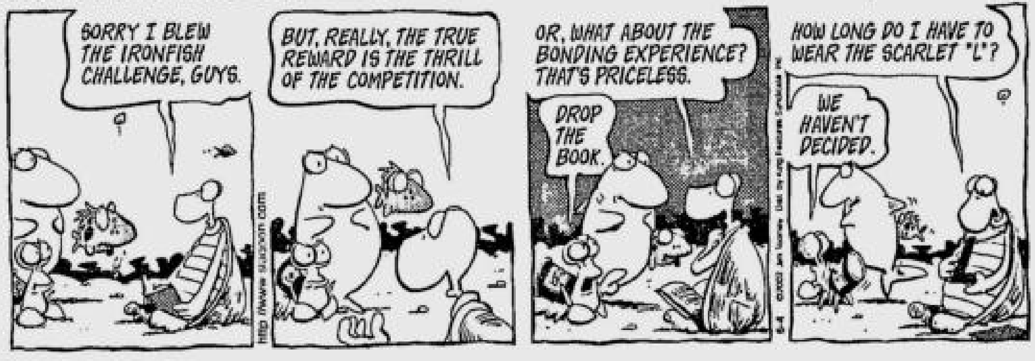
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


AHA! So the RUMORS ARE TRUE! YOU HAVE BEEN READING BOOKS DURING YOUR FREE TIME! WEBOY, HOW COULD YOU?
HUH?
"ANIMALS AND ETHICS"
CAN'T YOU SEE? YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE PLAYING THE ROLE OF MY BUMBLING IDIOT A.K.A. CIRCUS SIDEKICK. BUMBLING IDIOTS DON'T READ BOOKS!
YOU MUST LEARN TO BE IN CHARACTER ALL THE TIME! SLIP ON A BANANA PEEL! TIE YOUR SHOELACES TOGETHER! DO SOME BUTT SCRATCHING! HAVE I TAUGHT YOU NOTHING?!!

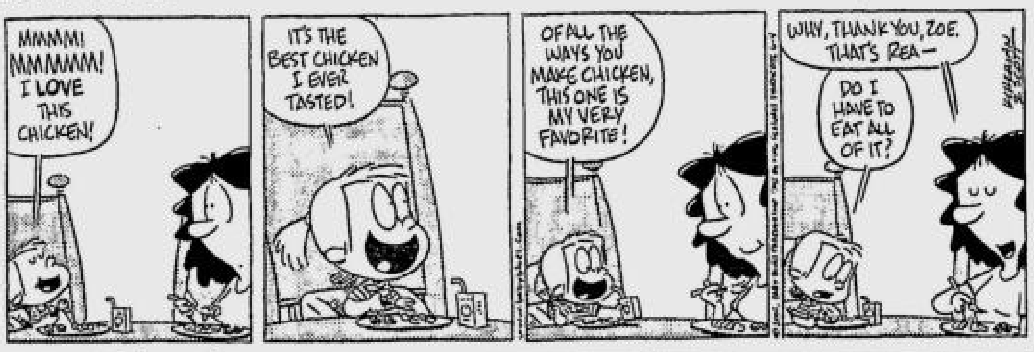
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


SORRY I BLEW THE IRONFISH CHALLENGE, GUYS.
BUT, REALLY, THE TRUE REWARD IS THE THRILL OF THE COMPETITION.
OR, WHAT ABOUT THE BONDING EXPERIENCE? THAT'S PRICELESS.
DROP THE BOOK.
HOW LONG DO I HAVE TO WEAR THE SCARLET "L"?
WE HAVEN'T DECIDED.
http://www.slagoon.com

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


MMMM! MMMMMM! I LOVE THIS CHICKEN!
IT'S THE BEST CHICKEN I EVER TASTED!
OF ALL THE WAYS YOU MAKE CHICKEN, THIS ONE IS MY VERY FAVORITE!
WHY, THANK YOU, ZOE. THAT'S REA—
DO I HAVE TO EAT ALL OF IT?

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Bruce Dern, Parker Stevenson, Dr. Ruth Westheimer, Angelina Jolie

Happy Birthday: You will have plenty of opportunities come your way so you must be free to take advantage of them. You will lean toward professions that are not mainstream. You will not stay in a position for long if you don't see advancement coming your way. You will choose your friends for their uniqueness. Your numbers are 8, 13, 22, 35, 42, 47

ARIES (March 21-April 19) This can be a highly progressive day for you if you are organized, determined and have a goal. Don't let anyone deter you from following through with your plans.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Say no to people with dubious proposals. You need to do what's best for you and not jeopardize your chance to get ahead because of a foolish mistake.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Don't get yourself into a financial bind because someone talked you into spending money you don't have. Put your energy into travel, learning or creative endeavors.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You are going to be disappointed if you are counting on someone else to pick up the slack. Hard work will be your only recourse. If you put in the time, you'll reap the rewards.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You've got the ideas so put them into motion. You'll be dynamic when it comes to persuading others to do things your way. Plan social events that will enable you to look good.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Don't let your financial situation go downhill today. Make the changes necessary in order to stick to your budget. If you are careful and invest wisely you will see financial gains.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You'll be enamored with someone today. Don't procrastinate; make your move and get things started. You will be better organized today and can therefore accomplish everything you set out to do.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You'll have no trouble getting things done today. Your enthusiasm will help to close deals. Travel for business will pay off as long as you don't overspend.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You'll be in a great mood today. This is a day to mix, mingle and enjoy entertaining events. Your creative ideas will be good so share them with others.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Troubles at home may fester today. Try to be reasonable but don't give in just to save the peace. Avoid getting trapped in a lengthy discussion that cannot be resolved.

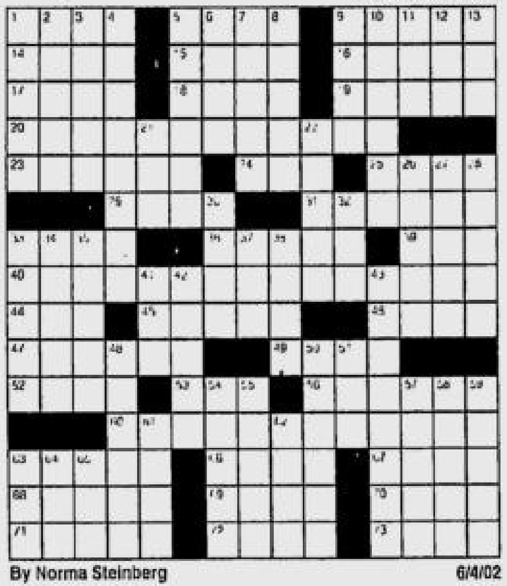
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You need to get out and do things with people you enjoy. Visit friends and discuss your plans, intentions and ideas. You're likely to get some sound advice that will help you see your situation clearly.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You may be considering a change regarding your vocation. Tread carefully and be sure that you are making the right choice for the right reason. Younger people in your life may need help.

Birthday Baby: You will always surround yourself with lots of people, making new friends wherever you go. You will have no problem moving from one group of friends to another. You will be generous, frank and outgoing.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



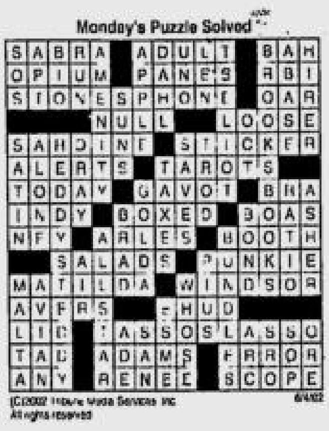
By Norma Steinberg
San Francisco, CA

6/4/02

ACROSS
1 Cathedral service
5 Indonesian island
9 Sanctuary
14 About
15 Roman poet
16 Last Greek letter
17 "Mask" star
18 Braided string
19 Deceive
20 Bug with selective deafness
23 Panties
24 Pindar poem
25 Terminates
29 Mr. Knievel
31 Beat it!
33 File flaps
36 Draw a bead on
39 Chamomile drink
40 Bugs at Shea Stadium in 1965
44 Lyricist Gershwin
45 Devoured
46 Netting
47 Quasimodo's job
49 Part of U.A.E.
52 Lucy's spouse
53 H. Hughes' airline
56 Come into view
60 Bug bookworms
63 Trousers fabric
66 Spirit
67 Club fee
68 Prohibited acts
69 Great Lake
70 Ferrara family
71 Inuit
72 Tear
73 Rusk or Martin

DOWN
1 __ Picchu
2 White with shock
3 Place
4 Most lamentable
5 Humorous
6 Solemnly swear
7 Small, green bird
8 Put two and two together
9 Pueblo people
10 Good-luck charm
11 Animal doc
12 Sense of self
13 Bert Bobbsey's twin
21 Neighbor of Ida.
22 Strict herbivore
26 ___ Dame University
27 Songs for two
28 Squirrel away
30 Stick it out
32 & the rest
33 Ford revival, briefly
34 Condor's nest
35 Noggins
37 Hot diamonds
38 Lisa's first name?
41 Actress Grant
42 Martian neighbor
43 Implanted
48 San Francisco nine
50 Staggered
51 Doctors' org.
54 More knowing
55 Love to pieces
57 Put into service again
58 Actress Garbo
59 Ruhr Valley city
61 Strike a stance
62 Demolish
63 $ investments
64 Clod buster
65 Quaint hotel

Monday's Puzzle Solved

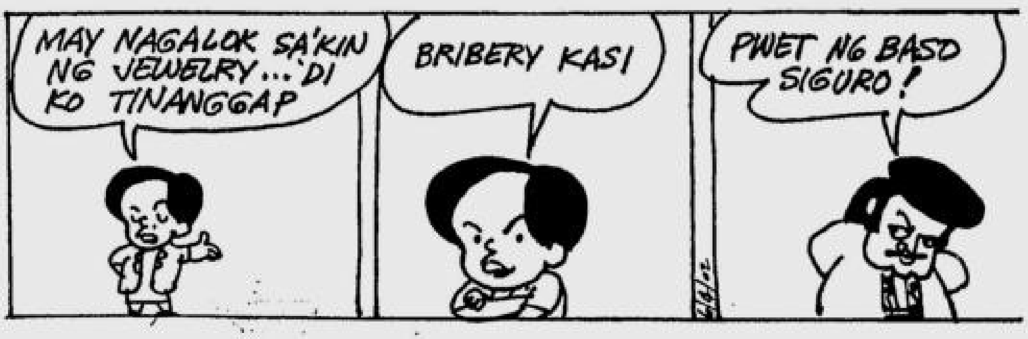


©2002 Tribune Media Services Inc. All rights reserved

6/4/02

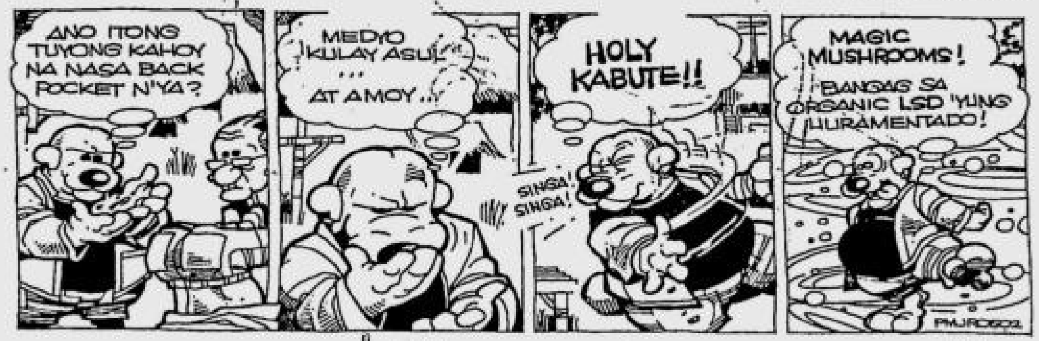
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


MAY NAGALOK SA'KIN NG JEWELRY... 'DI KO TINANGGAP
BRIBERY KASI
PWET NG BASO SIGURO!

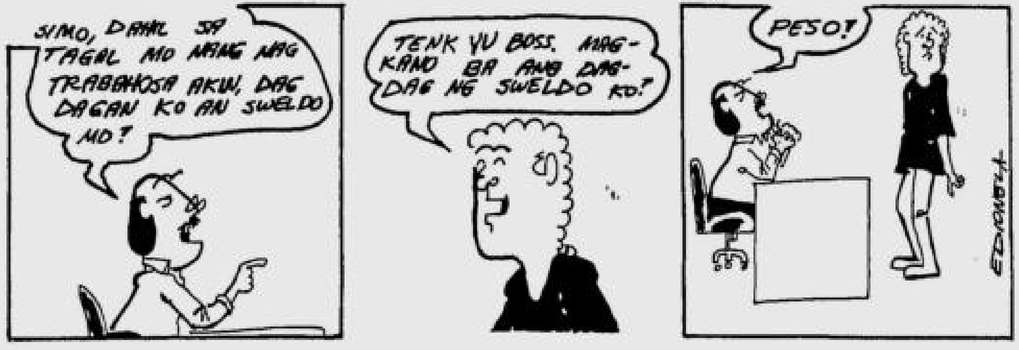
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


ANO ITONG TUYONG KAHOY NA NASA BACK POCKET N'YA?
MEDYO KULAY ASUL... AT AMOY...
SINGA! SINGA!
HOLY KABUTE!!
MAGIC MUSHROOMS! BANGAG SA ORGANIC LSD 'YUNG JURAMENTADO!

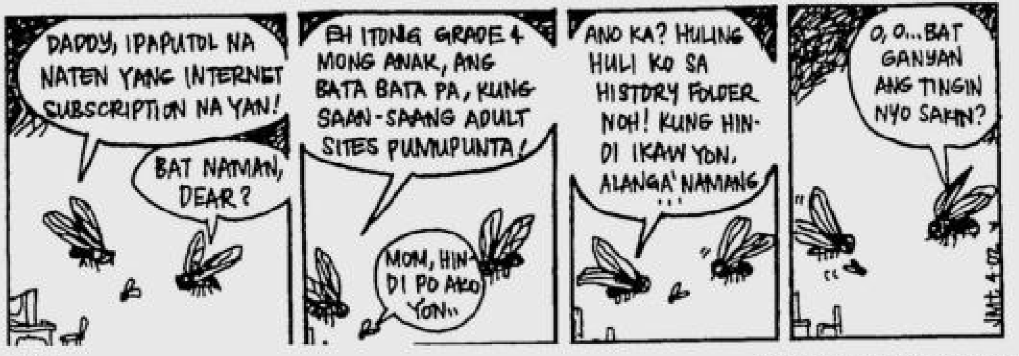
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


SIMO, DAHIL SA TAGAL MO NANG NAG TRABAHO SA AKIN, DAG DAGAN KO AN SWELDO MO!
TENK YU BOSS. MAG-KANO BA ANG DAG-DAG NG SWELDO KO?
PESO!

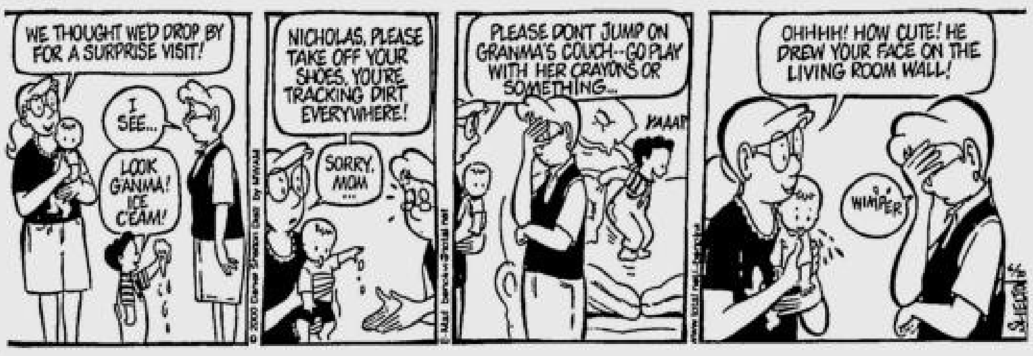
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


DADDY, IPAPUTOL NA NATEN YANG INTERNET SUBSCRIPTION NA YAN!
BAT NAMAN, DEAR?
EH ITONG GRADE 4 MONG ANAK, ANG BATA BATA PA, KUNG SAAN-SAANG ADULT SITES PUMUPUNTA!
MOM, HINDI PO AKO YON..
ANO KA? HULING HULI KO SA HISTORY FOLDER NOH! KUNG HINDI IKAW YON, ALANGA' NAMANG...
O, O... BAT GANYAN ANG TINGIN NYO SAKIN?

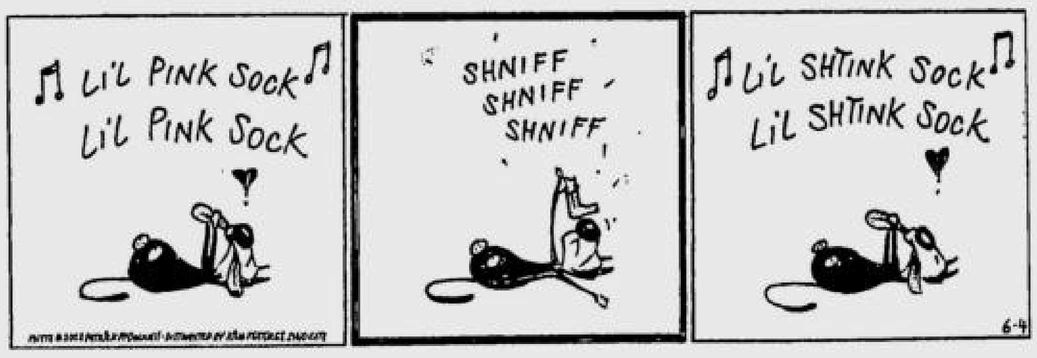
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


WE THOUGHT WE'D DROP BY FOR A SURPRISE VISIT!
I SEE...
LOOK GANMA! ICE CEAM!
NICHOLAS, PLEASE TAKE OFF YOUR SHOES. YOU'RE TRACKING DIRT EVERYWHERE!
SORRY, MOM
PLEASE DON'T JUMP ON GRANMA'S COUCH--GO PLAY WITH HER CRAYONS OR SOMETHING...
YAAAA!
OHHHH! HOW CUTE! HE DREW YOUR FACE ON THE LIVING ROOM WALL!
WIMPER

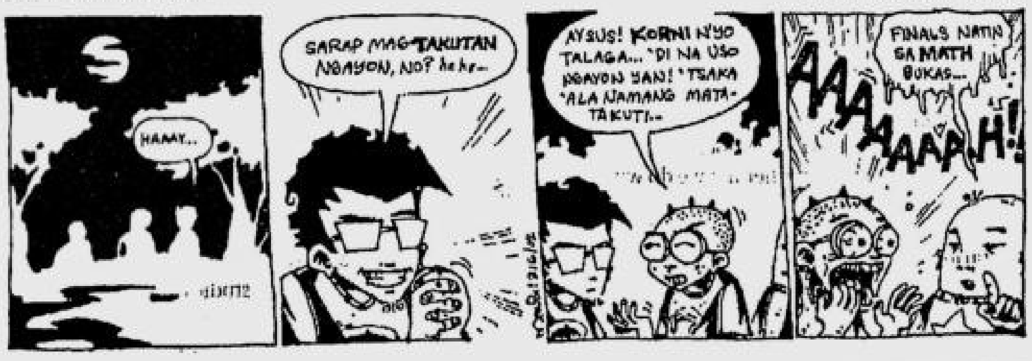
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


LI'L PINK SOCK LI'L PINK SOCK
SHNIFF SHNIFF SHNIFF
LI'L SHTINK SOCK LI'L SHTINK SOCK
6-4

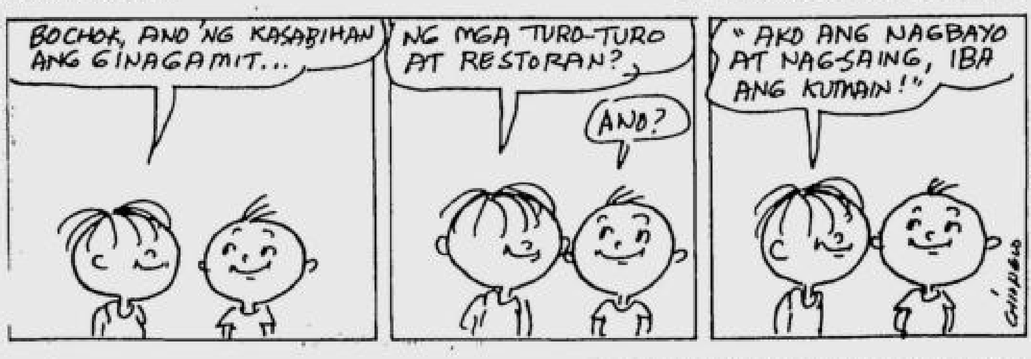
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


HAAAY...
SARAP MAG-TAKUTAN NGAYON, NO? he he...
AYSUS! KORNI N'YO TALAGA... 'DI NA USO NGAYON 'YAN! 'TSAKA 'ALA NAMANG MATATAKUTI...
FINALS NATIN SA MATH BUKAS...
AAAAAAAAH!!

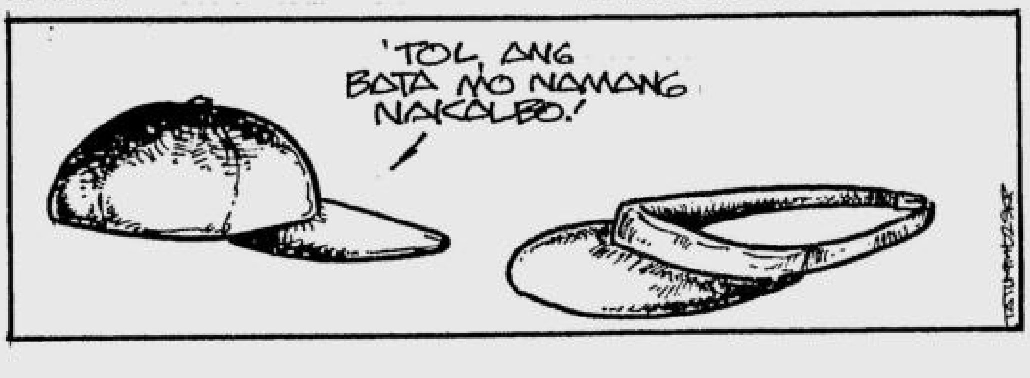
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


BOCHOK, ANO 'NG KASABIHAN ANG GINAGAMIT...
NG MGA TURO-TURO AT RESTORAN?
ANO?
"AKO ANG NAGBAYO AT NAG-SAING, IBA ANG KUMAIN!"

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


'TOL ANG BATA MO NAMANG NAKALBO!

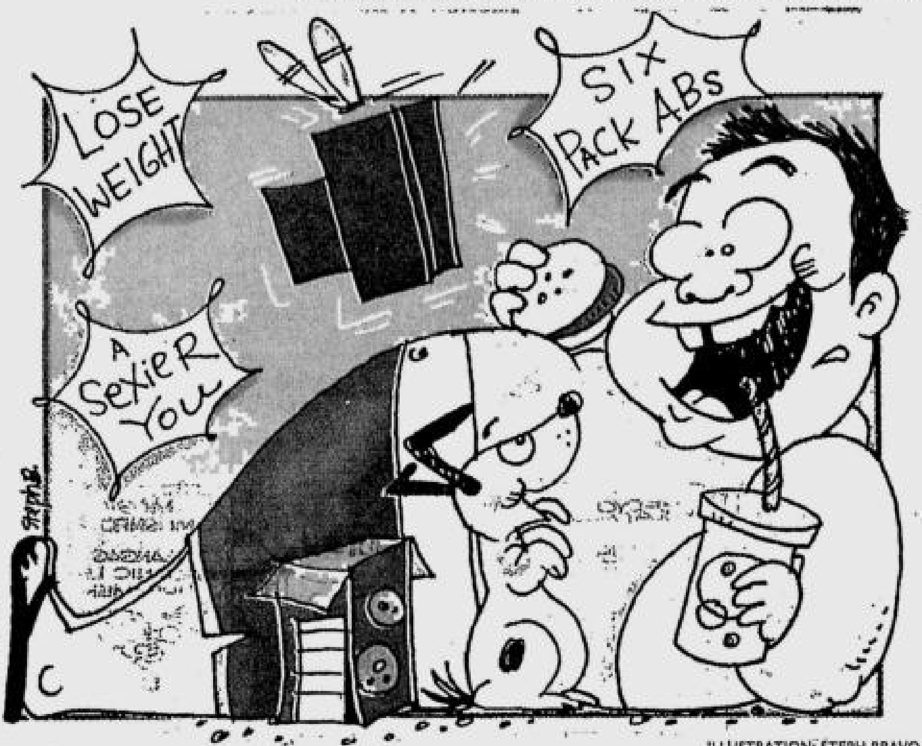


ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

Ab belts, lies and videotapes

Deceptive claims sway consumers into buying because they want to look good without having to actually do the work

From page C1

show? But you may fall for the testimonials and think to yourself they wouldn't dare claim to have scientific research to back them up if it weren't true. Well, the truth is a little more complicated than that.

Very few of us have the time or the resources to really investigate whether these things are true or not. And if you are like most consumers, you hope it is true because you want to achieve the look of the models without having to actually do the work involved.

Findings

Ever since the FTC came out last month charging Fast Abs, AB Energizer and AbTronic with making false claims, US TV networks and newspapers have been doing some investigation on their own. Here's what they found out.

Not many people have done 600 sit-ups in 10 minutes so it's hard to prove this claim. One person who would be in a position to judge this is triathlete Frank Sokol, who holds the world's record for doing more than 52,000 consecutive sit-ups. In an interview with Dr. Mike Rosen of CBS, he said that while an already toned and fit person could see minimal effects with the machines, the commercials grossly exaggerate the benefits. "Not a lot of people have done 600 sit-ups or crunches in a 10-minute period; I have, it's not the same thing."

Liz Crenshaw of Consumer Reports asked exercise physiologists Dana Phares and Josef Brandauer of the University of Maryland to analyze the same claim. They both told her that the electronic ab belts only gave a superficial and localized contraction as opposed to a real crunch, where you feel the whole abdominal area contracting. After using the belt for 10 minutes, Crenshaw asked if they felt like they had done 600 sit- ups. Phares answered, "Absolutely not. I didn't feel like I did one sit-up."

Out of context

Research done by Dr. Gad Alon at the same university is what AbTronic uses to support their claims. Alon told "Good Morning America's" consumer correspondent Greg Hunter that the AbTronic commercials took his findings out of context. He told NBC that AbTronic had never contacted him, that the research came from work done in the mid-'80s and that what AbTronic said in the infomercial had nothing to do with studies he or the university conducted.

Alon said, "In fact, we have used electrical stimulation on abdominal strengthening in a number of studies, and that particular one that is used by AbTronic does not look at all like the type of strengthening we do with electrical stimulation."

What Dr. Alon means is that while rehabilitation specialists strengthen muscles of injured or weak patients with electrical stimulation, this is not the same as giving someone the washboard or six-pack look.

Dr. Julio Garcia is a Las Vegas plastic surgeon who appeared in the AbTronic infomercial saying, "The nice thing about the AbTronic system is you don't have to go to a gymnasium where you have to do weight-lifting exercises, where we may have some other medical problems that prevent us from doing that—whether it's high blood pressure or bad joints."

It seems like the good doctor is now singing another tune because he told ABC News that although electronic stimulation can help maintain muscle tone, it would not help people lose weight. He also said that the AbTronic commercial took some of his words out of context, and that the machine alone could not help a person lose weight, lose inches and gain muscle definition.

Garcia said, "It was my intent to talk about many things together—diet, exercise and the machine. It has apparently been portrayed as just a machine itself. And that's not what I was there to talk about."

I'm not surprised to hear that infomercials sometimes take the words of experts out of context to suit their own agendas. A few years ago, I was in the audience listening to a lecture by Dr. Robert Girandola of the Southern California University when someone asked him why he was on the infomercial of Oxycise, which claimed that special breathing exercises would make you thin. He said he was taken out of context and they made it appear that doing Oxycise was better than exercising on a stationary bike.

Kiss of death

No wonder many well-respected scientists don't want to be interviewed or have anything to do with infomercials. During this year's International Health Racquet & Sports Association, I was told that to appear on an infomercial meant the kiss of death if you were a credible fitness professional. Because so many infomercials employ deceptive methods to sell their products, to be associated with them meant you had sold out.

This doesn't mean there aren't effective and worthwhile fitness products that are sold via infomercials. But sometimes even the good ones use exaggerated claims so consumers will rush to place their orders. If you buy the product with realistic expectations, then well and good, that's your personal choice. But if you buy the product because you believe in the far-out claims, then you have been fooled into buying something you probably wouldn't have if you knew the truth. In my book, that's called deception.

Other deceptive practices of infomercials in general are using models to portray fitness or medical experts, making you believe you are listening to the actual person. One such locally produced infomercial does just that. The model, an American expat married to someone I know, is dressed in a white coat with a stethoscope over his shoulder. Is this legal?

Another locally produced infomercial goes a step further. A lady they use for a testimonial says she lost pounds and inches but she has never tried the product and is paid to say those lines. Not only that, they give her another name on the screen. I know this because I know the person concerned.

It's examples like these that make me question whether the testimonials or expert opinions they use for infomercials are legitimate or not.

Studies

Meanwhile, here are some studies on electrical stimulation that the infomercials don't want you to know about. A study done by Dr. John Porcari of the University of Wisconsin found that after eight weeks, the participants experienced no change in weight or fat loss. The conclusion was that devices were "ineffective, time-consuming and at times even painful."

A Utah State University study that was presented at the 1997 American College of Sports Medicine conference found no significant changes in the weight, body fat or measurements of the participants. The Utah researchers stated that electronic stimulation "may strengthen muscles to a point, but probably will not help individuals lose weight, lose fat or change their basic body dimensions."

* * *

The Association of Fitness Professionals (AFPP) will hold a fitness seminar on June 22 at the Balay Kalinaw, UP Diliman. Topics include kickboxing, yoga, cardio ballroom and common weight lifting injuries. Call Doris at 850-7647.

* * *

Watch "In Fitness & In Health" on Studio 23 (Channel 42 on Destiny Cable), Mondays to Fridays, 6-6:30 am.

For past articles or exercises, go to www.tinajuanfitness.com

---

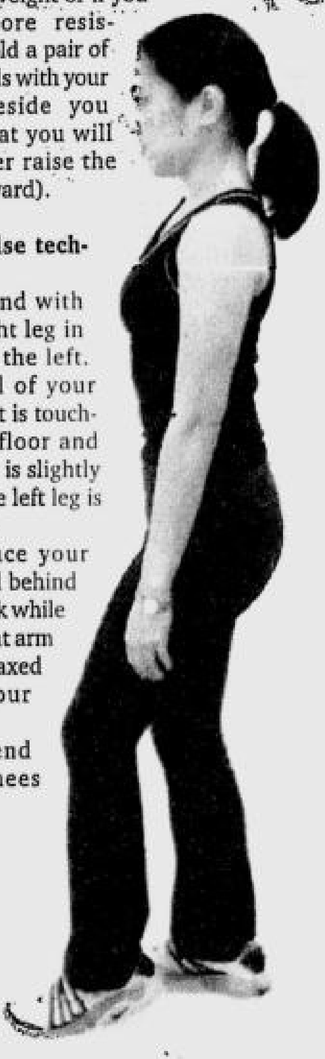
EXERCISE OF THE WEEK

One-Legged Squat

FIRMS the muscles in the buttocks, front and back of the thighs (quadriceps and hamstrings).

Equipment:

Body-weight or if you need more resistance, hold a pair of dumbbells with your arms beside you (note that you will no longer raise the arm forward).

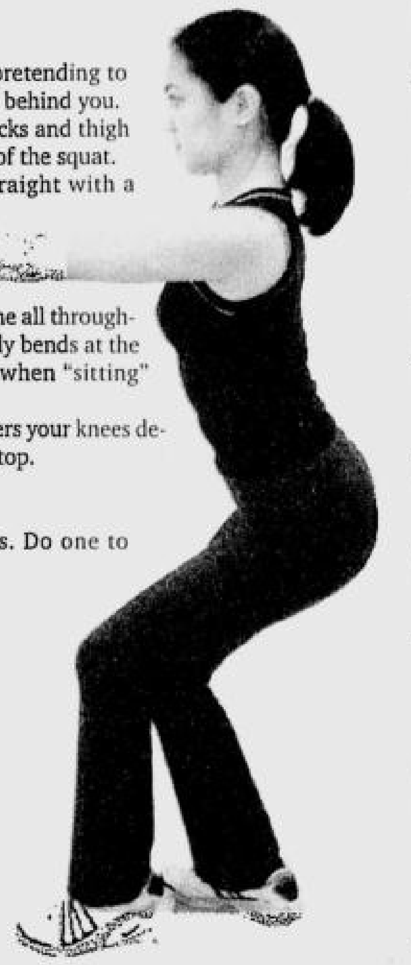


Exercise technique:

1. Stand with your right leg in front of the left. The ball of your right foot is touching the floor and the knee is slightly bent. The left leg is straight.
2. Place your left hand behind your back while your right arm stays relaxed at your side.
3. Bend both knees but keep your left foot flat on the floor. Push your buttocks behind you without arching your back so your body weight remains over the heel of your supporting left leg.
4. As you bend your knees, extend your right arm up to shoulder height for balance.
5. Slowly stand up out of the squat.
6. Do the necessary repetitions, then switch legs.

Performance tips:

1. Start the squat by pretending to sit on an imaginary stool behind you.
2. Squeeze your buttocks and thigh muscles to stand up out of the squat.
3. Keep your back straight with a natural curve in your spine all throughout the exercise. The body bends at the hips and not the spine when "sitting" into the squat.
4. If this exercise bothers your knees despite doing it properly, stop.



Repetitions:

Do 12-15 repetitions. Do one to three sets.

Antimicrobial intimate apparel here

HYGEIA International, makers of antimicrobial feminine intimate apparel, is now available in leading clothing outlets nationwide.

Hygeia products (underwear and body tops) can absorb up to 40 percent more moisture than the more expensive, 100 percent cotton fabric that is used in many expensive underwear on the market.

Hygeia is recommended by gynecologists, dermatologists and pediatricians to help reduce the possibility of infections (mostly from urinary tract infection), vaginitis, feminine rash and other skin irritations.

Hygeia doesn't mask odor with perfumes or scents, but guards against the breakdown of these harmful body bacteria. This is because the antimicrobial agent is embedded into the knitted fiber.

Hygeia comes in four colors (black, white, beige and gray) and in a variety of styles (for underwear-boxer, thong, French cut, contour, hipster, bikini, waist brief; for tops-body shirt, camisole and tank top).

SEMINAR PACKAGE
BLU BIANCO SUITES
CLARK, PAMPANGA
FOR AS LOW AS
P950 /PAX
INCLUDES:
☑ ROOM ACCMDT'N (4 IN A ROOM)
☑ 3 MEALS & 2 SNACKS
☑ CONFERENCE ROOM AND FACILITIES
FOR INQUIRIES / RESERVATIONS:
899-9824; 899-9595 Loc. 350/388; (045) 599-3956
Visit us: www.yupangconet.com

Take Charge Doc!

Nicky S. Montoya, M.D.

MEDICard

Looking to learn more about your benefits under your MEDICard coverage? Do you want to be clear on the procedures, which allow you to avail of MEDICard's services? Get your information straight from MEDICard's Medical Director, DR. NICKY S. MONTOYA every Tuesday.

FAQs (frequently asked questions)

MEDICard covered for my hospitalization, however there were medicines that I purchased outside the hospital. Are these reimbursable?

If these prescribed medicines were not available in the hospital during the time of your confinement, then they are reimbursable. Submit to MEDICard within 30 days from date of discharge all required reimbursement documents together with the original official receipt of prescribed medicines purchased and a certification from the pharmacy of the hospital that the medicines you needed were not readily available during your confinement.

Meet your MEDICard Team

Meet **Dr. Delmer M. Gensolin**, MEDICard's Medical Coordinator in Manila Sanitarium and Hospital. Doc Delmer finished Medicine from the Southernwestern University, Matias H. Aznar Memorial College of Medicine in Cebu City. He took residency training for his specialization in General Surgery at Manila Sanitarium and Hospital from 1979 to 1983. From 1996 to 1999, Dr. Gensolin was the Director for Medical Education of the hospital. He is also the former Vice President for Medical Affairs, the former Chairman of the Department Heads Committee and a former member of the Manila Sanitarium and Hospital Board. Today, Doc Delmer is focused on his practice as a staff surgeon of the hospital. He works hand in hand with his wife Mildred, who doubles as his medical secretary. For all your medical needs at the hospital, visit Dr. Gensolin at Room 17, from Mondays to Fridays, 8AM to 5 in the afternoon.

Contract Signing

FUJITSU PHILIPPINES, INC. renewed its corporate healthcare program with MEDICard in a contract signing held last May 17 at the Bayview Park Hotel. Present during the ceremony were (seated L-R), Mr. Luis S. Montoya (MEDICard EVP and GM), Dr. Nicanor D. Montoya (MEDICard President), Mr. Felipe R. Manalang (Fujitsu President) and Mr. Tomas R. Quiogue, Jr. (Fujitsu Senior Manager-HR Division). (Standing L-R) Ms. Lorena O. Bempayo (MEDICard Asst. Vice President-ITMO), Ms. Joy A. Mendiola (MEDICard Asst. Supervisor-Marketing Services), Ms. Miriam M. Villafuerte (MEDICard Asst. Manager-Marketing Services) and Ms. Resalyn M. Santos (Fujitsu Manager-HR Division). Fujitsu has been MEDICard's valued client since 1995.

We encourage all MEDICard members to voice out their concerns and issues at hand. BE HEARD AND BE READ. You can write DR. NICKY S. MONTOYA at 9/F Sagittarius Bldg. H.V. De la Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City or e-mail him at inquiry@medicardphils.com. **For feedback on availment of our services, e-mail us at** feedback@medicardphils.com.

For inquiries on individual or family membership, dial 840-2020 local 2017 and look for Ms. Joy Mendiola. For group or corporate membership, dial local 2049 and look for a membership consultant.

TEXT MEDICard for your queries: 0917-7518365 (Globe) or 0919-2476240 (Smart). Please don't forget to include your complete name and landline number where MEDICard could reach you. Log on to www.medicardphils.com.

MEDICard is the first and only HMO in the Philippines and the whole Asian region to be ISO 9002 certified.

ISO 9002

Sweets for your sweet can hurt

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

If you want to keep looking young, stay away from sugar

INSIDE OUT

Cory Quirino

SUGAR addicts will probably lynch me for this. But since I am in passionate pursuit of the ultimate truth to staying young, I leave no stone unturned in the process of my search.

In an eye-opener of a book, Dr. Michael Perricone, author of "The Wrinkle Cure," maintains that there is a natural way to address the problem of aging. And that is by controlling and/or diminishing the factors that contribute to it.

Agents of age

- Chronic fatigue—Pushing the body beyond its physical limits will cause wear and tear.
- Physical/Emotional stress—Overburdening our systems can lead to burnout. Abusing one's body and bouts of anxiety and depression will make you age faster.
- Undernourishment—A deficiency in your vitamin or mineral supplement, plus eating processed foods with preservatives and additives can make you look older before your time.

Free Radical Damage (FRD) is an oxygen molecule that is missing an electron. In its goal of being "complete" again, it takes an electron from another molecule. This sets a chain reaction within our body that finally leads to cell damage. Studies have shown that FRD significantly affects the aging process. While FRD is the result of natural oxidation in the body, it can be caused by external factors like overexposure to sunlight, cigarette smoke and air pollution.

The rescue

Vitamin C is the vitamin that can take years off your looks; 1,000 mg a day is recommended by health practitioners.

Alpha Lipoic Acid is a natural molecule that exists inside every cell in our bodies. Like Vitamin C, it has been well-known to scientists since 1951. It enhances the benefits of Vitamin C and E to the body and has the ability to repair damaged cells due to sugar. It is said that 100 mg a day is enough.

Vitamin E is an essential vitamin that gives skin its natural moisture while boosting the immune system. A minimum of 400 mg a day.

Extra supplementation of these age fighters (available at GNC, Health & Beyond at the Power Plant Mall and Healthy Options branches) plus your daily vitamin or mineral capsules ought to fortify your body.

Sugar can be toxic

Glucose, the sugar in our body, can be damaging. It attaches to proteins of collagen causing cross-links. When collagen cross-links, it becomes stiff and inflexible, leading to what many persons dread: the birth of a wrinkle. While watching Discovery Health last Sunday, I came across a feature on the immune system. It showed how sugar-water, when introduced into the body, depressed the body's immune response to disease. This is according to data gathered by scientists.

While a combination of antioxidants can minimize cell damage, the answer does not lie here. Not completely.

The only resolve one must have is to consume less sugar. And that means candies, chocolates, cakes, pastries, ice cream, soft drinks and alcohol. Thus, the bottom line is choose between your cravings or your health.

'Lessen the sugar' mantra

If you are determined to cut down on your sugar, here's a mantra you can silently say to yourself as you are standing before the dessert table. "Every day in every way, I will eat less and less sugar."

Even if your resolve isn't firm enough and you finally give in to your favorite pastry, you will begin to notice a subtle change in your subconscious. Soon you will start cutting back on the sweets. But do you know the visualization with shock value? Mentally project your face on the sweet temptation. Then imagine yourself 20 years older. You wouldn't even dare touch the stuff!

But is there life without sugar? Yes!

More on sugar-friendly health diets next week.

E-mail the author at coryquirino_fy@yahoo.com

Gentle approach to learning yoga

THE LATEST addition to the list of yoga schools in the country is the International Yoga Institute (IYI) at 52 Copenhagen St., Merville Park Subdivision in Parañaque City, which opened last year.

Started in Hong Kong in 1981 by Srila Sirami Majaraja, the IYI, which is now also in the United States, has been training students worldwide for the past 20 years. Its instructors have all been personally taught and certified by internationally acclaimed yoga masters.

For all ages

Jessy Perez, IYI's national secretary, says they teach yoga to everyone who was willing to learn. She adds that yoga is a safe and effective method for treating injuries, developing a general health regime, or even cross training for increased athletic performance.

IYI teaches Hatha Yoga, where participants learn yoga "asanas" (postures), deep breathing and meditation techniques. The "Philosophy of the East," an interactive workshop, discusses the ancient yoga philosophy and fascinating topics like karma, transmigration, understanding the self and transcendence. In the vegetarianism course, the compelling reasons—human anatomy, health, economics, ethics and even religion—for choosing a vegetarian diet are presented. Course participants are taught how to combine herbs, spices and foodstuffs and balance them to create delicious and nutritious meals.

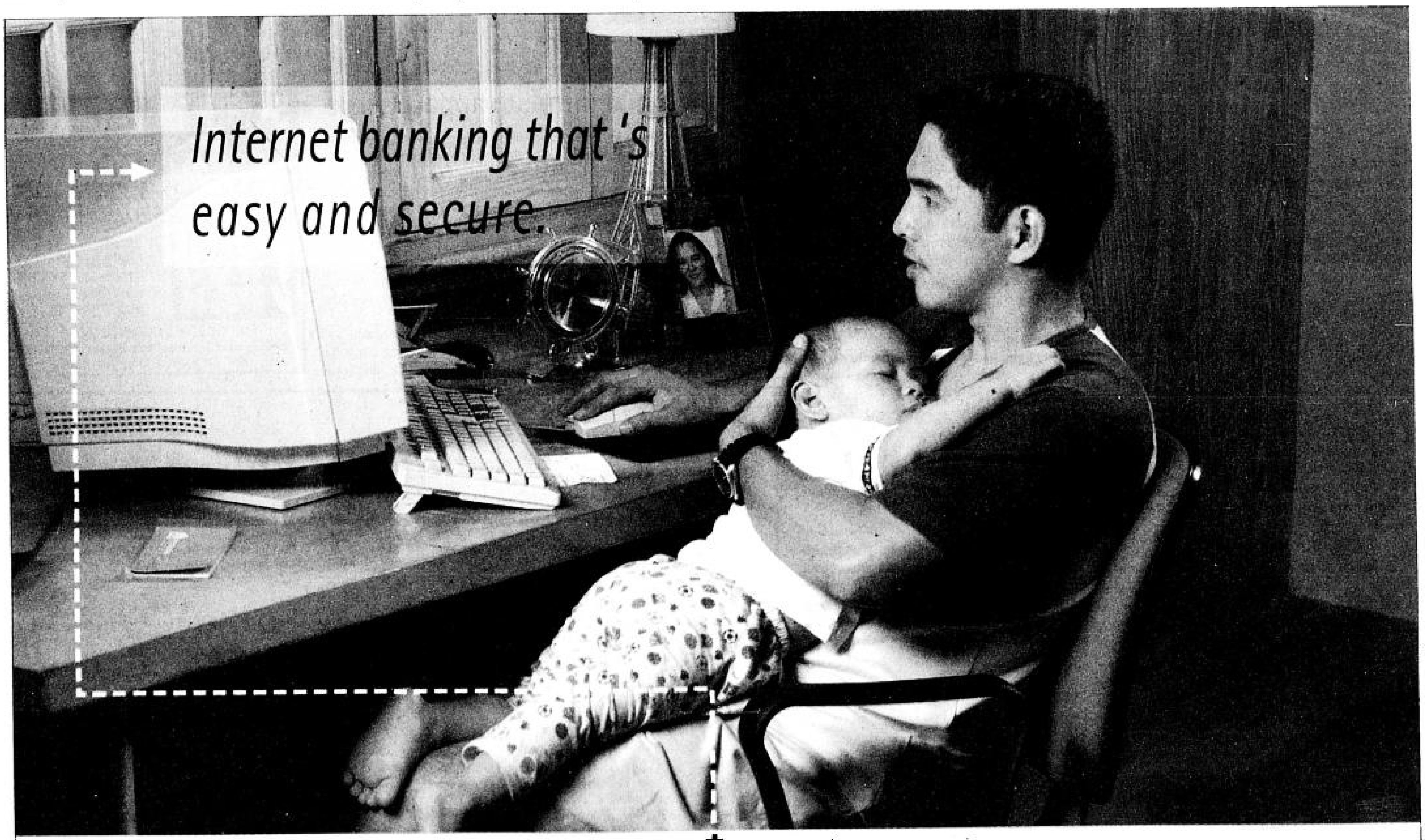
Breathing is basic

In a typical two-hour yoga class, the instructor first demonstrates the mechanics of proper or yoga breathing, which should come from the abdomen. He then puts the students in a five-minute relaxation period, or in a very gentle pose. IYI advocates the gentle approach to teaching yoga.

The students are made to lie on their backs to become aware of the tension within their bodies, amid a backdrop of soothing, relaxing music and the burning of aromatic incense to create a perfect ambience for meditation.

Warm-up exercises of the eye, the tongue, neck, shoulders, elbows, etc., down to the toes follow for 20 minutes. The students are once more put in a relaxed state.

IYI can conduct classes, seminars and workshops even at homes and offices by special arrangement. Enrollment is conducted at its outlets in COD Cubao, Magallanes and Dasmariñas, Makati. Call 824-5247, 787-4578 or (0919) 394-7378.



Internet banking that's easy and secure.

metrobankdirect
Power Banking on the Net

Point-and-click ease. Safety and security. Exactly what you look for in an Internet banking service.

Enjoy power banking on the Net right where you are — in the comfort of your home, office or anywhere you happen to be Internet-connected — anytime, any day! With **metrobank*direct***, you can bank online with confidence. It features a simple navigation system that's very easy to use. What's more, it's equipped with security features such as:

☞ Customer ID and password protection
☞ An encryption system that prevents unauthorized access during transmission to and from your browser
☞ A 20-minute time delay that keeps others from accessing your account in case you didn't log out properly
☞ Automatic log-out when you leave your computer idle
☞ Website certification by Verisign, one of the world's leading website authentication companies

Powered by: NSys Consulting and hp

metrobank*direct* lets you do any of the following transactions online:

- Inquire on your account balance
- Open another deposit account
- Request for bank statements
- Transfer funds
- Order a checkbook
- Pay your bills
- Apply for telegraphic transfers

You can also get advice on your home and car financing needs and do more with our user-friendly banking solutions without need to enroll your account:

- Apply for a MetroHome or MetroCar loan
- Apply for a Metrobank credit card
- Inquire on foreign exchange and interest rates

metrobank*direct*, one of Metrobank's many innovations to make banking even more convenient for you. There's no need to open a virtual account. Simply enroll your accounts now so you can just click to bank. Enrolment is free!

For more information, log on to www.metrobank.com.ph and click on the online tour. You may also visit any Metrobank branch or call 898-8973, 898-8976 or 898-8830

You're in good hands with METROBANK
The Country's No.1 Bank

Over 800 domestic and international branches, offices and subsidiaries.
Head Office: Metrobank Plaza, Sen. Gil J. Puyat Ave., Makati City; Web Page: www.metrobank.com.ph; E-mail: metrobank@metrobank.com.ph
Member of the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation. Deposits insured up to P100,000.00 per depositor.

A proud member of BancNet